

10P
EVERY SUMMER MONDAY

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ENGLAND VS MOLDAVIA

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DAY ONE OF A NEW SERIES

THE MAKING OF A MODERN MYTH

How Jackie's father was banned from her wedding day PAGES 16, 17

10P
EVERY SUMMER MONDAY

White House promises to take strong reprisals

US set for missile attack on Iraq

FROM IAN BRODIE, MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

THE United States was considering a cruise missile attack on key Iraqi installations in retaliation for Saddam Hussein's biggest offensive into Kurdistan for five years.

The message from the White House was that America would respond "with consequences" for Saddam.

The White House refused to confirm that military action was the preferred option. However, American diplomatic sources indicated that a limited strike, similar to the Tomahawk cruise missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in 1993, was the most likely option.

Last night President Clinton who was in Little Rock, Arkansas, during a break in campaigning, spoke to John Major



and other foreign leaders to try to reach consensus on what action to take.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, is also due in London this week and will be seeing Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on Thursday. The need for consensus would indicate that military action is not imminent. However, Mr Clinton appeared determined to take strong steps to punish the

Iraqi leader whose forces mounted the offensive in a region which is protected by US, British and French combat air patrols north of the 36th parallel.

The call for action followed the Iraqi seizure of the Kurdish city of Arbil. Despite claims from Baghdad that Iraqi forces were withdrawing, there were reports last night of Iraqi T72 tanks advancing on the Kurdish stronghold of Sulaimaniya. Iraqi aircraft were also said to have bombed rebel Kurdish targets inside the no-fly zone established by the Western allies to protect the Kurds from Saddam in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War.

Two Swiss-made Pilatus aircraft, mostly used by Iraq for training purposes, were reported to have attacked the Kurdish town of Busanah, near Arbil, and Kifri. If con-

firmed, the Iraqi action represented another defiant challenge to the West.

Yesterday Leon Panetta, Mr Clinton's chief of staff, responded with great emphasis when asked about US retaliation during an interview with NBC's Meet the Press. He said: "I don't want to say when or where or what, but we will respond with consequences for Saddam Hussein."

He said Saddam remained a threat to his own people and to the region and the US had made it clear that was unacceptable.

Mr Panetta acknowledged there was a distinction between Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, the event that triggered the Gulf War, and his dealing with internal trouble involving the Kurds, but his attacks were still not justified. "You do not use force," Mr Panetta said.

Mr Clinton has already placed all 20,000 US forces in the region on alert and ordered them to be reinforced. Thirty-four additional combat aircraft were due to fly from the US to Jordan last night. The Americans have one aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea.

One suggestion under discussion at the Pentagon yesterday was the creation of a no-drive zone which would probably need a UN Security Council resolution but would have the effect of barring Saddam from sending tanks or artillery into areas where he is already forbidden to fly.

A swift military response against Saddam would be a popular move in the US and a bonus for Mr Clinton in his re-election campaign.



Tomahawk lifts off

Kurdish battle, pages 10, 11
Leading article, page 21



Damon Hill with Frank Williams, who is said to have arranged to replace him

Damon Hill is sacked as he nears last lap

BY OLIVER HOLT

DAMON HILL'S Formula One future was in doubt last night after his Williams team announced that he was to be sacked at the end of the season. Hill is just three races away from winning the world championship and could even clinch the title next weekend at the Italian Grand Prix.

Rumours have circulated for several months that Frank Williams, the team owner, had struck a secret deal with the German, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, to replace the Englishman next year.

Williams cancelled negotiations over an extension to Hill's current one-year contract on Wednesday, leaving the driver "very surprised and disappointed".

Yesterday his lawyer, Michael Breen, said the dispute was not over money and Hill's request for an increase in his £6 million-a-year salary and instead, suggested Williams had never had any intention of re-signing Hill.

Williams wanted very much to have the chance to stay with Williams next year," Mr Breen said. "Frank told Damon it was not about money and personality."

Williams would say only that he would not be using Hill's "services" but it is thought he is concerned that Michael Schumacher, hobbled by an uncompetitive Ferrari this year, will be a tougher proposition.

Williams has parted company with each of the three drivers who have won his team's most recent world championships: Nelson Piquet in 1987, Nigel Mansell in 1992 and Alain Prost in 1993. Hill, 35, has won 20 grands prix out of the 64 in which he has competed.

Title concern, page 27

Boy's body found on Norfolk beach

The body of a young boy thought to be that of missing four-year-old Tom Loughlin was found last night on a beach at Sheringham, Norfolk, just two miles from the spot where the drowned body of Tom's six-year-old sister, Jodi, was found last week. The children disappeared nearly two weeks ago.

Euro 96 gives economy boost

The 250,000 tourists who came to Britain for the Euro 96 football championships appear to have given the economy an unexpected boost by spending around £500 apiece. Sales of takeaway pizzas and supermarket lager also soared and giving the economy marked growth between April and June Page 48

Six die in crash after pop festival weekend

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

SIX young people, including a brother and sister, died yesterday when their car crashed head on into a van as they returned home from a music festival. Two pedestrians were injured, one seriously.

The four men and two women, aged between 18 and 25, had spent the weekend camping at the One World Music Festival at Thurlston, Somerset. They were driving the few miles home along the A361 to Frome at 2.20am when their Ford Fiesta veered across the carriageway and hit a Transit van.

The vehicles hit with such force that each spun around

and veered on to the verge, hitting two men walking home from the festival. The car was embedded in the front of the van with sleeping bags and tents strewn on the road.

Five officers had to cut away the roof to recover the bodies. The victims were taken by ambulance to hospital in Bath. One of the injured pedestrians was airlifted to Frenchay Hospital in Bristol where he was critically ill.

Relatives left flowers along the embankment at the crash site yesterday. A note attached to one bouquet said: "Dear Mel, All our love, Colin, Sheila and family."

Blair angers Prescott again

BY JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR's attempt to reposition Labour as the party of "modern social democracy" was undermined yesterday when John Prescott pointedly refused to accept the term.

The Labour leader made a deliberate attempt in a series of interviews to redefine Labour as the new middle party positioned between a "clapped out" Tory party and Old Labour. He argued that Labour's traditional values of justice and compassion should be matched with "ambition and aspiration" to bring it into the 21st century.

But he fuelled the current disquiet over his leadership by declaring that he would regard himself as "a social

democrat". Mr Prescott, the deputy leader, who is known to be unhappy about some of the policy changes introduced by Mr Blair, deliberately chose not to associate himself with the Labour leader's words, arguing instead that he was a "democratic socialist".

In a wide-ranging interview on BBC's Breakfast with Frost, where he emphasised the need to redefine New Labour, Mr Blair also disclosed that Labour would reveal its full tax plans after the November budget. He indicated that the top rate of tax would not be raised, even for the very rich, but left open that possibility in case the economic position changed this autumn. He also denied that he

intended to rule out a single currency in the next Parliament, making clear there had been no policy change.

During an interview on Sky's Sunday Programme half an hour later, Mr Prescott insisted: I'm a democratic socialist... our party, our new constitution, fully endorsed at the conference, said that we were a democratic socialist party. I'm proud to call myself a democratic socialist who is concerned about the traditional values but putting them into a modern setting."

Leadership sources pointed to a newspaper interview. Turn to page 2, col 3

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, and letters, page 21

It's opening time for oysters in the pub

BY ROBIN YOUNG



"I only let him go to the pub when there's an 'R' in the month"

OYSTERS, long seen as an acquired taste of the affluent gourmand, are to join pork scratchings, crisps and salted peanuts as a fast food for pub-goers.

As the oyster season gets under way today new freezing techniques have been unveiled in Ireland which herald a return to the popularity of the bivalve not seen since Victorian times. Cryogenic technology will enable landlords to serve oysters as swiftly as they pull a pint.

The latest technology leaves the creature frozen raw on its half-shell. Once thawed, the processors claim, the frozen oyster's fresh flavour is almost indistinguishable from the newly-opened animal eaten live.

The technique has been developed by Fastnet Mussels, a company based in

Bantry Bay which has shown the product at a food and drink exhibition in Dublin. The oysters are harvested and purified in ultra-violet treated seawater. They can then be blanched if required, or processed raw. They are taken from chilled sea water, drained and blast frozen to minus 28C.

The most difficult part, says John Murphy of Fastnet Mussels, is opening the frozen oysters so they can be packed into cartons of 50 or 100 on the half-shell. "The trick is to find the correct application of pressure that will spring the shell," says Mr Murphy. "We are confident we have done it. We will be supplying caterers, pubs and restaurants later this year."

The availability of frozen and ready-opened oysters sold as a "free-flow" product, meaning cooks and caterers can

take as many as they want from the pack while keeping the rest frozen, could mean that oysters quickly regain the popularity they had in Victorian times, when they were a staple diet for the poor.

"It means oysters can be served in pubs and brasseries where they do not have anyone trained in the skills of oyster opening," Mr Murphy said yesterday. "There will always be crusty old fogeys who insist on having oysters opened by hand but they will rapidly be outnumbered by the thousands who will be introduced to oysters for the first time."

Mr Murphy said that he defies anyone to tell the difference blindfold between a newly thawed frozen oyster and a recently opened fresh one. "Unless they do it by the gritty bits of shell they find in the latter, I am sure they will not be able to do it from the taste."



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WEDNESDAY

FASHION

Honor Fraser models Marks & Spencer's autumn collection
PLUS: The Media pages

THURSDAY

FILMS

Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani star in *Diabolique*

PLUS: Dr Thomas Stuttaford's medical briefing

FRIDAY

POP

David Sinclair on the new album from REM
PLUS: The Education pages

SATURDAY

MEN OF PRINCIPLES

The complete wardrobe for men in the *Magazine*PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and *Visions*, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A RELAIS & CHATEAUX BREAK

£1m man backs Labour to ban hunting

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Political Animal Lobby, which has donated £1 million to the Labour Party, is the creation of Brian Davies, an energetic Welshman who lives in America. A white-bearded figure in his early sixties, he is better known as the head of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which he founded in 1967 in Canada to campaign against the commercial hunting of baby seals.

Mr Davies has since turned his attention to other animal welfare issues, including fox-hunting and deer-hunting in Britain. However, hunting enthusiasts believe the donation will make it harder for Tony Blair to ban fox-hunting if he becomes Prime Minister. The British Field Sports Society said that he would be open to a charge of having been bribed if he outlawed hunting in

■ An animal rights group has donated £1 million to the Labour Party. However, hunting supporters believe the move will make it politically more difficult for the party to ban field sports

the wake of the donation, which is the biggest single gift to Labour from an outside body.

IFAW has grown into one of the wealthiest animal welfare pressure groups in the world, with 1.4 million supporters who regularly donate money. It has its headquarters in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. There is a British branch at Crowborough, East Sussex. Last year, according to IFAW sources, the non-profit-making organisation pulled in about £20 million worldwide donations.

After the banning of commercial seal-hunting by the Canadian Government in 1987, largely owing to

IFAW's crusade, Mr Davies set up the Political Animal Lobby in Britain in 1990 as a limited liability company to lobby and channel funds to those political parties deemed most likely to further the anti-hunting and animal welfare cause. The group, which claims 50,000 supporters in Britain and insists that it is independent of IFAW, has donated money to all the main political parties. Before the latest donation, it had given £365,950 to Labour, £117,578 to the Conservatives, £70,105 to the Liberal Democrats and £54,262 to other groups.

In a statement issued on his behalf

yesterday, Mr Davies, who is trustee of PAL, said that the large donation to Labour was justified by the party's manifesto commitment to allow a free vote in the Commons on a motion to ban hunting with hounds.

"After careful analysis of responses and positions, it was determined that Labour, at the moment, offers the best across-the-board deal for animals," he added. "Naturally we would consider making a similar donation to the Conservative Party if it adopted an equally robust position against hunting with hounds."

Last night Robin Hanbury-Tenison, chief executive of the British Field Sports Society, said: "If this donation is to promote animal welfare in general, then well and good. But if it is intended as a bribe to get a ban on hunting, then Labour will need to tread very carefully."

Mr Blair denied strenuously that the £1m donation would have any

impact on the party's policy on fox-hunting. As Labour published a list of donors who had given the party more than £5,000, he made clear that existing and long-established policy to give MPs a free vote in the Commons on fox-hunting remained. Interviewed on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Blair emphasised that donations did not buy influence with the party. "To anyone who has given funding we made clear, and we made it absolutely clear to the animal welfare people, that we don't change an iota or a jot of policy."

Dick Lloyd, a past chairman of the Masters of Deerhounds Association, said: "I fear that the lure of such large amounts of money will put extra pressure on a Labour government to find time for legislation. The party is taking money from an organisation that is extremely ignorant about what really happens in the countryside."

Howard's 'name and shame' plan for young

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

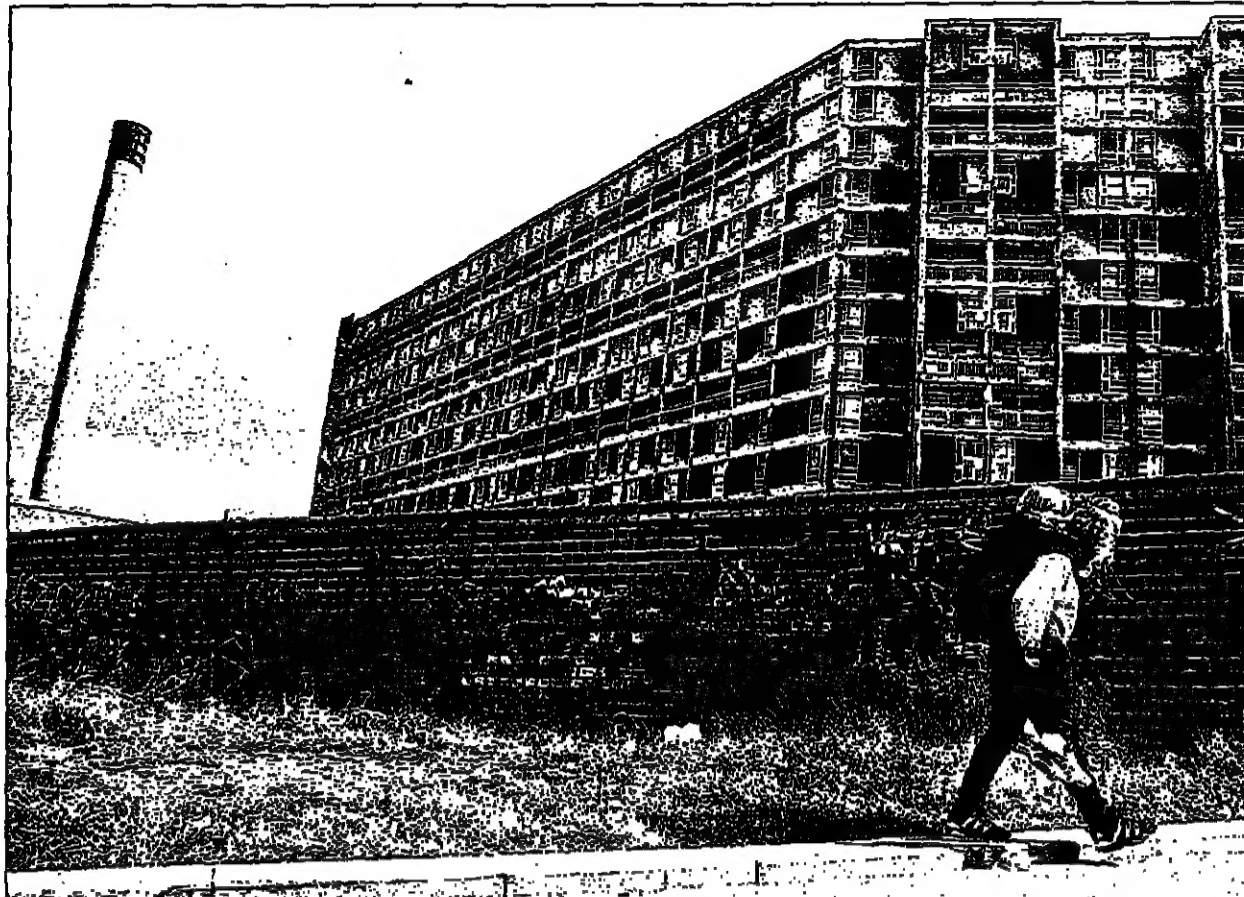
TEENAGE offenders will be named in court under plans being prepared by Michael Howard to shame them and their parents. The move challenges the legal principle that the identity of juveniles should be kept secret.

The Home Secretary wants to give magistrates the power to name persistent offenders convicted of serious offences, including burglary and car crime. He is preparing to unveil his latest initiative in his speech to the Conservative Party conference next month.

The plan is being considered as a left-of-centre think tank urges new forms of community punishment today, including "latter-day stocks" for burglars. A report by Demos suggests that persistent car thieves should work as lollipop men and women, and thieves as charity collectors in town centres.

Politicians are concerned that there is no longer a social stigma attached to court appearances for serious crimes. Last night Conservative sources said that discussion was still taking place on whether the anonymity rule would be scrapped for juveniles aged ten and over, or whether any change would be applied only for offenders beyond the age of 14.

Labour has already proposed giving youth courts the power to name offenders aged 16 and over. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "If you talk to offenders and their families, then it is the possibility of public knowledge that can change their behaviour. We have to get people to realise the appalling consequences of their disorder."



The Park Hill Estate in Sheffield, one of the postwar housing blocks that English Heritage wanted listed

Plan to list highrise 'blot' falls flat

BY MARCUS BINNEY
AND PAUL WILKINSON

WHAT many regard as some of the greatest excrecences of the postwar housing boom could become historic listed buildings under plans to be launched by English Heritage today.

Nineteen examples of council housing schemes and early high-rise flats from the 1950s and 1960s, led by the huge "streets in the sky" concrete wall of the Park Hill Estate in Sheffield, are being recommended for listing as outstanding examples of their period.

The others include the Gilbert and Sullivan blocks on the Churchill Gardens Estate on the Thames, a 30-storey Brutalist block in Kensington by the architect Erno Goldfinger, and Le Corbusier-style towers built by London County Council in the 1950s overlooking

Richmond Park. The architectural critic Roderick Graddidge said yesterday: "Some of the tower blocks proposed for listing these days are uninhabitable. It's a return to Communism, saying to people: 'You will live in these places because we tell you they're good for you.'"

Many of Park Hill's 2,000 tenants were incredulous. Reg Balderson, 75, chairman of the Park Hill Tenants Association, said: "Nobody can tell me these buildings look nice. They are just a blot on the landscape. I would like the architect who built them to live underneath one of the walkways. With all the noise it's like living under a railway bridge. When I heard of this listed status idea I thought it was a joke. I still do."

Gavin Stamp, chairman of the Twentieth-Century Society, says: "It is right that a small number of the best and most significant examples of high rise housing

should be listed. Problems have arisen because these places were not properly looked after."

Martin Cherry, head of listing at English Heritage, vigorously defends the recommendation of the Park Hill estate. "Problems have arisen because so many people locally are convinced it will be demolished. No one wants to put their name down to live there. But the estate represents such a massive investment, it can't just be bulldozed. We found the council quite supportive of listing because it will send out a clear signal that the estate will stay."

The recommendations will be subject to wide consultation. The Department of National Heritage states that listing is only a marker and does not mean a building must be preserved in perpetuity. Some 3,000 leaflets have already been sent to Park Hill residents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Post strike goes ahead in spite of Blair call

Postal workers are staging another strike today, after union leaders refused to hold a fresh ballot on pay and conditions, despite a public intervention by Tony Blair. The Labour leader said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme: "The union negotiators have got a pretty good deal on the table. I'm sure that if they are going to proceed, they will want to do so with the consent of their members."

The Royal Mail's managing director Richard Dykes described the decision not to hold a ballot as "disgraceful". Leaders of the Communication Workers Union met tomorrow to decide their next move. Further strikes would trigger a three-month suspension of the Royal Mail's monopoly on delivering letters.

Spectators hurt at rugby match

Several people were taken to hospital after a number of barriers collapsed during the Keighley Cougars' Divisional Premiership semi-final tie against Hull at Cougar Park. Police made several arrests during the rugby league match, which was marred by crowd trouble, including a pitch invasion. There were chaotic scenes when Hull fans forced barriers to collapse 24 minutes into the game. Play resumed later.

Match report, page 26

Ban smoking on planes, says BMA

The British Medical Association joined an international call yesterday to ban smoking on all aircraft using European airports. The association has written to all British airlines. "There is no such thing as a smoke-free area on any aircraft where even one passenger is smoking, as the air is recycled," Dr Sandy Marara, BMA chairman, said. The ban is being sought by the European Forum of Medical Associations with the World Health Organisation.

Paedophile recaptured

A convicted paedophile who escaped during a day trip to a theme park has been recaptured — after he was spotted in a newsagent's shop reading headlines about himself. Trevor Holland, 52, absconded from a public house close to Chessington World of Adventure in Surrey on Saturday. He was seen on Thursday by members of the public in a shopping centre in Worthing, West Sussex. He is now back the Eric Sheppard Unit in Hertfordshire.

Tories look again to 'demon eyes'

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE Conservatives are this week to continue the "demon eyes" theme for their anti-Labour campaign despite last week's criticism from the Advertising Standards Authority.

The menacing eyes will appear on 500 poster sites, although Tony Blair's face will no longer be depicted. "Everyone knows it is Tony Blair now so we don't need to bother with his face," an aide said yesterday.

More than 150 people, including the Bishop of Oxford, complained to the ASA about last month's "demon eyes" advertisement in newspapers, which super-imposed red, glowing eyes on a photograph

of the Labour leader. The ASA told the Tories to drop the advertisements, saying they had portrayed Mr Blair as "sinister and dishonest" and should have asked his permission before using the photograph. The party says it will be doing nothing wrong now any obvious visual reference to him has been dropped for the "New Labour, New Taxes" campaign.

Conservative Central Office said last night: "The campaign has been such a success, we don't want to jettison it now. Everyone knows that politics is a robust business. Labour should stop squealing like stuck pigs."

Politicians dance on the pinhead of party names

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR now wants to be called a Modern Social Democrat. His deputy John Prescott insists he is a Democratic Socialist and Paddy Ashdown is known as a Liberal Democratic Socialist. On where they all differ no one could quite agree.

The term "social democracy" has been used over the past 150 years by parties across the world, from Marxists to Communists to the far Right, with Stalin eventually denouncing it as the moderate wing of fascism.

It reached its apotheosis in Britain with the centrist Social Democratic Party splintering from Labour in the early 1980s.

The Australian commentator Russell Brown once said: "The term Democratic Social-

ism makes as much sense as pregnant virginity."

Mr Blair said yesterday that it was not just a question of names. He wanted "to apply the traditional values of social democratic parties in Britain and other countries to today's world".

But following Labour backbenchers were furious with the new tag. "The Social Democrats were the right-wing traitors who deserted our party," one said.

Mr Prescott also refused the label Social Democrat, but said he was proud to be a Democratic Socialist.

"My party, and our new constitution, fully endorsed at the conference, said we were a democratic socialist party," he added. Democratic Socialists were "concerned about the

traditional values, but putting them into a modern setting".

Brewer's *Politics Dictionary* describes "democratic socialism" as the ethos of the Labour party and of most European socialist parties since the Second World War. The term emphasises a contrast with the centralist nature of Communism and with social democracy, which lacks the cutting edge of a concrete ideology.

Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, one of the Gang of Four who formed the SDP, yesterday said: "I am definitely a Social Democrat rather than a Democratic Socialist. It may be angels dancing round a pinhead, but it is just a gut feeling. Social Democrats sound more centrist. Blair's new Labour party is in many ways completely indistinguishable from us. We just nicked the name first."

The Tories were more blunt. One aide said: "There is no serious ideological distinction between the two titles. They both want greater equality. But Old Labour likes democratic socialism because it stresses that they are socialist, something Tony Blair is trying to make middle England forget. He prefers the word Democrats because they sound less extreme and more American."

So where does that leave the Liberal Democrat Socialists? Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader and Liberal Democrat MP, said yesterday: "Labels are usually pretty meaningless and not worth squabbling over."

Tony Blair is just trying to shed Labour of its past titles and ideology, but he is in danger of throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Major puts women higher on agenda

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

MOVES to promote women and galvanise the women's vote in the run-up to the next election have been signalled by John Major.

He is concerned that the needs of women should be taken into account by ministers and government departments preparing new policies. Revised guidance has been circulated to Cabinet ministers and senior civil servants urging them to ensure "equal treatment".

The 14-page document was drawn up under the aegis of the Cabinet sub-committee on women's issues. An additional checklist for officials also suggests that they compare the effects of policies on married or unmarried people, people of different sexual orientation, the young and old, and women who are pregnant or on maternity leave.

But at a time when Conservative Party strategists have expressed concern about the small number of high-profile Tory women and a fear that the party is losing support among women under 35, the focus will be women. Ministers were advised three years ago routinely to ask civil servants for assessments on how a particular policy might affect women, but many considered the instructions as a political correctness exercise as it was not seen as a high priority.

With recent changes in the law and the impetus given by last year's UN world conference on women, senior ministers decided on action. The assessments are described in official jargon as gender impact statements or mainstreaming.

Cheryl Gillan, the Minister

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Prescott distances himself from Blair

Continued from page 1
in which Mr Blair had said that the two phrases were interchangeable. Asked by *The Sunday Times* whether he believed he was a social democrat, Mr Blair said: "Sure. I would describe myself as that, a democratic socialist too. My belief is that those are interchangeable terms."

Mr Prescott's intervention follows growing tension between the deputy leader and Mr Blair. On Friday it emerged that he had sent a memo to Shadow Cabinet colleagues and their staff, insisting that he should be sent copies of all draft policy statements and documents.

Earlier this summer he made clear that he was unhappy about spin doctors briefing on policy and insisted that campaigning should be based on substance rather than soundbites.

Mr Blair's decision to underlie Labour's move to the centre follows a series of strategy meetings. Yesterday he made clear that he would not be deflected from his ambition to modernise the party. "My passionate belief, the conviction that drives me in politics, is that we shouldn't have to choose between this type of Conservatism and switching the clock back under Labour. There is a different, a new way forward."

حکومت الراحل

Freed drug dealers had helped to send heroin gang to jail

By RICHARD FORD AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO drug dealers who were released by the Home Secretary after serving 11 months of an 18-year sentence were "supergrasses" who helped to trap a heroin gang, it emerged yesterday.

Judge David Lynch jailed John Haase, 46, and Paul Bennett, 32, at the same time as six other accomplices at Liverpool Crown Court in August 1995, so that others in the smuggling ring would not suspect their operations had been compromised.

The judge then wrote privately to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, requesting that they serve the equivalent of only five-year sentences. Both men had served two years on remand. Prisoners sentenced to more than four years are eligible for parole after the halfway stage. Mr Howard exercised the Royal Prerogative to release them.

Mr Howard said yesterday: "This was a wholly exceptional case in which I acted at the specific request of the trial judge. He asked me to take the necessary action to, in effect, make the sentence a five-year sentence."

At the time of the trial, secrecy was felt to be necessary to protect the two men and to safeguard Customs and police operations against drug smugglers in England and Turkey. A senior source said: "The men have given extraordinary information."

The story broke over the weekend after the two were seen back in their old haunts in Liverpool. Last night they were in hiding again.

Both men were involved in a £15 million syndicate. They

were among eight convicted at the end of Operation Floor, a year-long Customs investigation in which 87 kilos of heroin was seized. Yilmaz Kaya, a Turk, got 20 years; Suleyman Ergen and Bulent Onay 14 years; Mehmet Ansen 8 years; Manuk Ozer 4 years and Edward Croker 14 years.

The supergrasses were secretly released in July. Last night it was unclear whether they had been given new identities. Their return to Liverpool was not a surprise, as few supergrasses have the ability to carve out a new existence away from family, old friends and old haunts.

Bennett initially returned to his family's semi-detached home in Norris Green, Liverpool. The house is surrounded by security gadgets. A spotlight and closed-circuit TV camera are trained on callers.

Neighbours were stunned by his return. One man, who declined to give his name, said: "I couldn't believe it. I knew he had been sent down for 18 years then he turned up

after a year. I thought he must have escaped or something. I think it is a disgrace that he has been let free."

Bennett's house is the image of respectability. On the front window sill stands a neat row of porcelain figures alongside pictures of the children. The upstairs bedroom curtains were drawn yesterday and there was no sign of Bennett or his family.

No-one was at home either in the small, end-terrace house where John Haase stayed until 1994. It is now owned by an elderly woman. Haase has a previous conviction for armed robbery. His former neighbours in the cul-de-sac had no idea where he was living now.

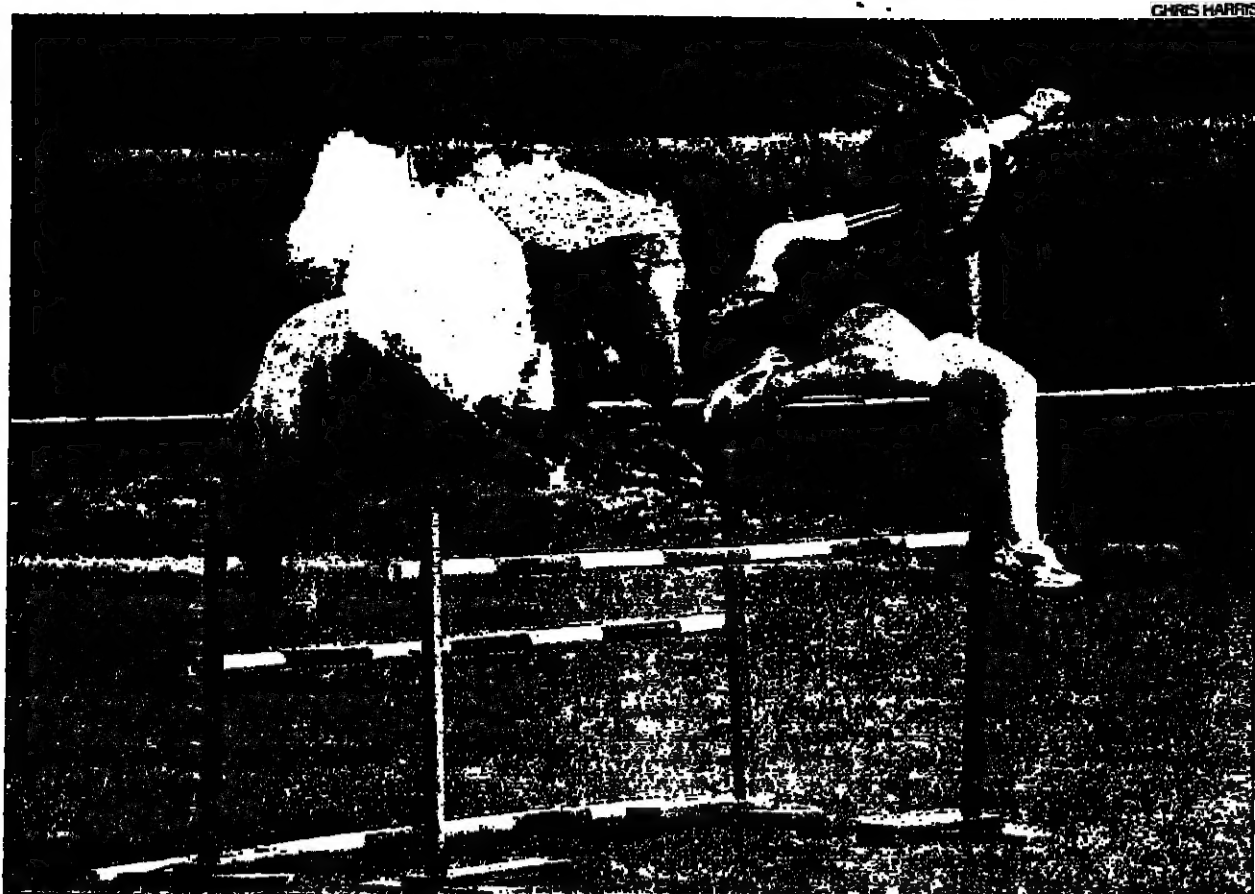
Eddie Loyden, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, said their release would undermine police attempts to tackle the city's drug problem. He said: "This city has been stricken with a major heroin problem over the years. There has been a lot of pressure on the police to do something about the problem and recently attempts have been made to do so. But this sort of thing simply undermines the entire efforts of the police to tackle the issue."

One legal source said: "It doesn't matter whether they have given information about deals going on abroad or at home."

"I am sure their lives will be under threat now everyone knows why they were released early. My advice to them would be to vanish from the face of the earth. There will be some pretty angry people out to get them."



Bennett pictured since his release



Tall order: Paula Hendrickson, 16, jumps with 30in-high Nijinsky at the British Miniature Horse Society show

Little ponies size up their big day

By LIN JENKINS

A TINY pony gained a big reputation yesterday when it was officially declared to be the smallest horse in Britain.

Countess Natushka, a four-year-old skewbald toy horse, measured six hands three inches (27in), just half an inch less than its closest competitor, to take the title at the British Miniature Horse Society's annual show at Billingshurst, Kent. The Guinness Book of Records believes it could be the smallest horse in the world.

The contest was initiated after it was found that the previous record holder, an American horse, had not been fully grown when measured. Yesterday's contestants had to be aged four or



A farm cat gets the measure of Countess Natushka

over. Max Hughes, a senior referee with the British Horse Society's joint measurement board, carried out the measuring. "My normal

measuring stick starts at ten hands. For this I have had to use a special measuring stick and get down on my knees." The winner, bred from

British native ponies, mostly the Shetland and Welsh mountain breeds, surprised those who thought that a Falabella — bred in Argentina from small stallions bred by Pampas Indians — would clinch the title.

Tikki Adorian, who bred the winner, said: "Miniature horses can be any breed. They vary from the roly-poly Thelwell Shetland type to the finer Falabellas. They come from every conceivable blood line."

Graham Smith, whose three-year-old toy horse Alpine Skier won the geldings class, said that they were like normal horses — except that his enjoyed "a cup of tea and a custard cream as a treat. But it has to be a china cup or he tosses it away."

Tribunal rules in favour of teacher

By JOHN SHAW

A TEACHER at Britain's oldest independent Roman Catholic school for girls has won her case for unfair dismissal.

An industrial tribunal has been told that Jennifer Trevisan, 50, was dismissed in April 1995 from New Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, after tensions between her and Sister Margaret Mary, the headmistress, a nun from the Convent of the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord in Jerusalem. Mrs Trevisan had been diagnosed with reactive depression caused by overwork in November 1993. After her return to the school in July 1994, she said, the pressure increased when she was told to teach German as well as French.

Mrs Trevisan described her final appeal to the school governors as "a kangaroo court at which Sister Margaret Mary was the principal witness". The school denied that Mrs Trevisan, a staff member for 22 years, had been a target, and said redundancy procedures had been applied fairly.

At the time, the school had falling rolls and the governors decided the language faculty was over-staffed. Sister Margaret Mary was told to seek economies but the tribunal said it was not vital that redundancies were required in the academic year 1994-95.

Sister Margaret Mary asked for volunteers for redundancy in November 1994. The tribunal was concerned about certain procedural matters and was "in no doubt that the selection criteria were neither objective nor fairly applied".

A hearing will assess compensation. Mrs Trevisan said yesterday at her home that she was delighted by the outcome. There was a new headmistress at the school, she said, and she would ask for her old job back.

Customs celebrates £40m south coast haul

By A STAFF REPORTER

DRUGS with a street value of £40 million were seized last year along the south coast of England, according to today's first annual report of the new Customs southern region.

The success should sound a warning to drug smugglers that Customs are not a soft touch, said spokesman Bob Gaiger, who added that officers were "definitely making a dent" in the illegal trade.

The huge haul from yachts and ferry ports was three times the target figure for the region, said the report. The region's coastline, from Newhaven, Sussex, to the Isles of Scilly, west of Land's End, was of "paramount importance" in the battle against drug smuggling, said Customs Collector Chris Packman.

The new area, formed by merging Southampton and part of the South West regions, had resulted in a more effective and successful Customs operation, added Mr Gaiger.

Customs intelligence operations contributed to 37 drugs seizures nationally and internationally with a total street value of more than £33 million. In addition, Customs made 269 seizures in relation to indecent or obscene material, restricted imports and exports, and endangered species, said the report.

Smuggled excise goods with a duty and VAT value of £576,134 were seized, beating the target by more than £250,000. Forty vehicles used in excise smuggling were seized.

Gay couple's surrogate baby prompts calls to halt 'distasteful trade'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

CHURCH leaders and politicians called last night for tighter international laws to halt a "distasteful trade in human life" after two homosexual Edinburgh men paid an American woman a large sum to have a child on their behalf.

Sarah Clare Zachs Adam was born in New York to a surrogate mother six weeks ago and brought to Scotland by her donor father, William Zachs, and his partner, Martin Adam. Yesterday the men, both in their 30s, were in hiding as reporters and photographers gathered outside their home in central Edinburgh, where they have lived for seven years.

News of the arrangement was greeted by protests from church leaders and some politicians, who urged social workers to investigate and questioned the ethics of a culture which treated children as commodities.

Surrogacy is not illegal in Britain or the United States, but in Britain there is a £7,000 to £10,000 limit on what women can be paid. The money must cover expenses alone and the restriction aims to discourage the practice.

Sarah's birth was announced in cards to friends, who were told that a woman in the United States had been paid to be artificially inseminated with Mr Zachs's sperm and to carry the child. It is not yet clear how much money changed hands. No laws

appear to have been broken. Mr Zachs, said to be an American citizen, and Mr Adam had been planning a family for some time. They were described by friends as "an inseparable couple in a stable relationship".

A Home Office spokesman said that the child would probably have been brought to Britain under her father's passport. She would be classed as a dependent and, as such, would more than likely have access to health and social care. Leslie McEwan, head of Edinburgh City Council's social work department, promised an investigation.

The Church of Scotland called the arrangement "an absurdity". A church report on fertility treatment, *Pre-Conceived Ideas*, published last week, opposed surrogacy for all and IVF for same-sex couples. It stated that heterosexual marriage was the only correct context in which to rear children.

The Rev Bill Wallace, convener of the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility, accused the couple of placing homosexual rights above the child's "basic right" to have a normal upbringing in a stable, loving, heterosexual home. He added: "I certainly think the laws should be looked at. In cases like this, there should be some supervision by social workers, as there is with fostering or adoption."

Father Danny McLoughlin,

spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, called the situation "abnormal" and added his voice to calls for an investigation. "Something has to be done about this distasteful trade in human life. It gives the impression that a child is some sort of commodity that can be exchanged on the international market."

Homosexual rights campaigners said that Church leaders were trying to take families back to a never-never land. Dominic d'Angelo, editor of *Gay Scotland*, said: "The important thing here is the quality of the relationship between the two men. If that is stable, there should be no problem." The homosexual rights campaigner Peter Tatchell said that more than 2,000 lesbian and homosexual couples in Britain had probably had surrogate children.

Three months ago it emerged that a two-year-old boy was being raised by a lesbian couple and a homosexual couple in Gourock. He was conceived when one of the women artificially inseminated herself with one of the men's sperm. The child divides his week between the two sets of parents.

Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party and a Kirk elder, said: "I don't know all the circumstances of this current case, but from a personal point of view, if the child is being brought up in a stable, loving home, then it is fine."

Neighbours' wails make piper emigrate

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SCOTTISH piper is emigrating to America after complaints from his neighbours about noise pollution.

Gary Stronach, one of only 25 professional bagpipe teachers in Scotland, has agreed to give lessons at a university in Virginia after his council warned him about practising at home. He plays for

four hours a day to keep his place as one of Scotland's best pipers.

However, his neighbours in Perth say the noise can be heard up to half a mile away. Two residents complained to Perth and Kinross Council and now Mr Stronach has decided to quit Scotland.

"I don't think it is the volume of noise that is the problem but the amount of time I practise," he said. "Anyone who plays

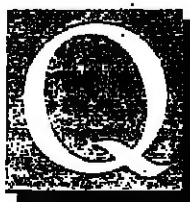
the pipes will tell you how hard they are to play. I am annoyed that they should call it noise pollution, especially in Scotland." The Americans have already granted him his Green Card because they regard him as an "exceptional ethnic musician". Perth and Kinross Council said: "There are no set rules as to what constitutes noise pollution — there is no difference between bagpipes and a ghetto-blasters."

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Q 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



OUT NOW

... WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Carnaby Street goes out of style

By JOE JOSEPH

THE company that owns Carnaby Street has decided to wash its hands of the area that became the centre of the Swinging Sixties.

Wereldhave, a Dutch property group, is hoping to get as much as £75 million for the freehold of the Carnaby Estate, roughly the valuation made by its former owner, Peachey Property.

The estate embraces three acres of what — 30 years ago — were some of the trendiest shops not just in London but the world. John Stephen's men's boutiques in the area single-handedly triggered the rebirth of the male dandy and made it acceptable for men to wear pink frilly shirts and crushed velvet jackets.

Stephen, whose first customers included Frankie Vaughan and Cliff Richard,



Trouser suits in Carnaby Street's Sixties heyday

Vince, which was frequented mostly by homosexuals — "the only place," as George Melly recalled, "where they measure your inside leg each time you buy a tie".

But today the street can no longer be regarded as the natural home of the Kinks' *Dedicated Follower of Fashion* unless, of course, he is dedicated to the tackiest souvenirs, 45p postcards or some aspirin from Boots. How sedate exactly has Carnaby Street become? So sedate that it has a Pringle sweater shop.

But the area's dreary, drab mood does not stop flocks of tourists, carrying out-of-date guide books, from strolling up and down the now pedestrianised street. They look just as dazed and disoriented as visitors to Carnaby Street must have looked 30 years ago — only today they cannot blame drugs for their

sense of bewilderment. The key statistics about Carnaby Street in 1996 are not the width of the flares, the length of the tab collars or the weight of the mohair, but the £5.8 million a year rental income from the estate's warren of shops, offices and studios.

Typical of Carnaby Street's new regulars are Monique and Adrien Gourlet, a retired couple from Paris who thought they might find some fashionable knick-knacks for their grandchildren, but settled for garish London T-shirts instead. "It's pleasant enough," Mme Gourlet said. "There are young people, no cars, you don't have to dress up. You can just amble around as you please."

"In Paris we have similar sorts of areas, but they are much more crowded, much livelier, and more chic."

Walkouts threatened in two schools as union is accused of using disruptive pupils as political pawns

Governors attack teachers over expulsion strikes

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PROBLEM pupils are being used as pawns in a campaign by teachers for more power to ban children, school governors claimed yesterday.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers is expected to make last-ditch attempts today to avert strikes over unruly pupils at two schools. Governors at Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, will attempt to stop union members walking out if ten-year-old Matthew Wilson returns to the school tomorrow. Teachers say that he picked on other pupils and was seen at the gates with a baseball bat. A further 31 union members at The Ridings School in Oxenden, near Halifax, who make up more than half the staff, said they would strike from Thursday if told to teach 13-year-old Sarah Taylor. Governors supported her expulsion for pushing a teacher, but she was



Matthew Wilson: staff say he is too violent

reinstated by an appeal committee.

Manton Junior School governors, who twice refused to back their headteacher and expel Matthew Wilson, said yesterday that they would not give in to the strike threat. Seven of the nine teachers are in the NASUWT.

Caroline Morrison, a parent-governor with two sons at the school, said: "This is not about Matthew. He is being

used by the unions because unruly pupils are big news at the moment. The unions would like to see sin-bins — units for disruptive pupils — all over the country, and this is one way of pressuring the Government to provide them. If they can whip up enough support about a ten-year-old boy disrupting lessons, perhaps the units will appear." She said it was the teachers' duty to give the boy a second chance.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, told the NASUWT conference in April that she was preparing legislation this autumn to strengthen disciplinary measures available to teachers. Manton Junior governors feel they are being used in a campaign to influence these measures.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said in May that he wanted more pupil referral units, known as sin-bins because they take the most unruly children. Yesterday he said: "Our purpose is not to get

publicity. Our purpose is to help members in schools protect themselves from physical violence."

It is not the first time the charge of exploitation has been levelled against the union. Terry Buckler, a regional official of the National Union of Teachers, accused the NASUWT of seeking media exposure of a similar case in South Tyneside in May in order to recruit more members. Mr Buckler said: "We have handled far more cases of this type than the NASUWT. We handle them very differently and we resolve them to the satisfaction of all concerned without the aggravation that there appears to be in this case."

A high-profile dispute in April concerned the Wilding family. Union members threatened to strike rather than teach Richard Wilding, a 15-year-old who terrorised classmates at Glaisdale School in Nottingham. A last-minute deal ensured that the boy attended a special unit.



THE HEAD TEACHER

BILL SKELLEY has used his power of expulsion sparingly, but was adamant that Matthew Wilson behaved so badly on his seven-day return from one thwarted expulsion that he deserved a second ban. Mr Skelley would not comment directly but Tony Woodward, his NUT regional official, spoke for him. "There were very good reasons why those decisions were made and we were very much disappointed and dismayed by the refusal of the governors to support them," he said. "Behind the decisions was a caring attitude in the sense of caring for the well-being of the rest of the pupils and the staff and the individual pupil. Staff tried to provide support for the pupil, but there were a number of incidents involving other pupils and occasions when the pupil lost control."



THE MOTHER

PAMELA CLIFFE agreed that Matthew was not a model pupil, describing him as a lovable rogue, and has called the teachers' strike vote pathetic. As far as she is concerned, it is Matthew who is being picked upon by adults who should be helping him both.

"He is a boy like all boys. He isn't a bully. He certainly isn't an angel, but he is not like the teachers are saying," she said. Her son has endured several traumas, such as the separation of his parents, untimely death of his father and witnessing the death of a family friend in a motorcycle accident.

Ms Cliffe said: "Matthew and I need help and support. I hope the problems can be solved." Matthew himself wants to return. "It is where all my friends are," he said. "I'm going back on Thursday."

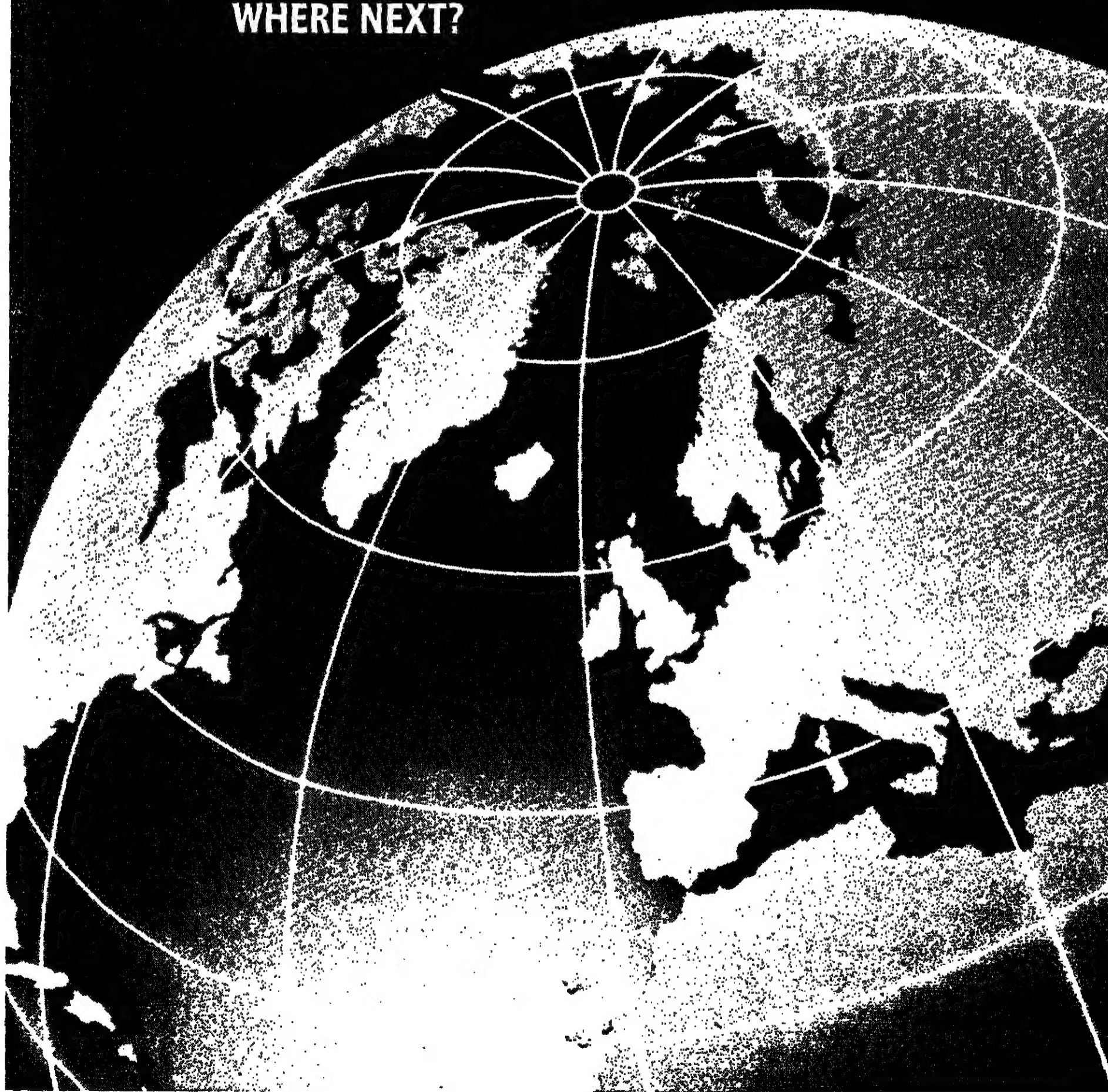


THE GOVERNOR

EILEEN BENNETT feels the governing body she chairs has been portrayed wrongly as out of touch with the problems faced by her school. Mrs Bennett, who lives near Manton Junior, believes she has the community's best interests at heart.

"They are a one-parent family. They live in difficult circumstances. I will not see that kid beaten into the ground and the only way they will shut me up is to lock me up," she said. "I know the teachers have got a difficult job, but I don't think he has been given a fair crack of the whip. We are being used and manipulated. That boy is by-the-by in all this. It is unions versus Government. There has not been one incident where the police were called and there is not one recording of a teacher being injured."

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Labour warns of teacher shortage

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SHORTAGE of primary teachers was forecast by Labour yesterday after it disclosed that next year 5,000 fewer trainees would be taken on than in 1993.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said that recruitment targets seemed to take no account of rising numbers of primary school pupils or the planned expansion of nursery education.

The Department for Education and Employment said that teacher vacancies were at a low level and schools were having no difficulty recruiting staff. A spokesman said that there was no teacher shortage.

Mr Blunkett said parliamentary written answers showed that recruitment for primary teacher training had declined over the past three years from 16,658 to 13,601. The target for 1996-97 was 11,500. He said that, even without the nursery expansion, the school-age population was due to rise by 3.5 per cent over the next five years.

He said: "No wonder the Government has allowed the voucher scheme to operate without a qualified teacher being in charge of designated nursery education provision."

The Teacher Training Agency has acknowledged the need for recruitment rates to rise by the end of the decade to take account of rising pupil numbers and early retirements.

Minorities put off by 'too white' universities

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE "white" image of traditional universities is putting off talented black and Asian students and damaging their long-term job prospects, a report published today says.

Ethnic-minority students prefer to study closer to home than travel to more highly regarded universities, where they feel under pressure to "act white". The report, by the Institute of Employment Studies, said black students were further disadvantaged by the way some employers chose recruits from top universities.

Two years after leaving university, ethnic-minority graduates were more likely to be unemployed and feel undervalued in their jobs than their white peers. However, the report showed ethnic-minority students resident in Britain made up 12 per cent of university students, compared with 6 per cent of the general population. They are mainly grouped at large, former polytechnics, particularly in the capital, where the University of East London has almost 50 per cent non-white students.

Ivana La Valle, co-author of the report, said: "There is a class and cultural difference at old universities... Many have told us they felt under pressure to 'act white' as they put it." Asian girls who wore traditional dresses felt uneasy and some students felt isolated by a rugby club culture.



Hidden danger of a grapefruit cocktail

THERE were press stories during the war that Churchill insisted on starting his day with fruit juice. It was said that the Prime Minister's juice had to be linned rather than fresh.

At the time this eclectic taste was represented as a harmless and rather lovable eccentricity: the only problem was that oranges and grapefruit were then in short supply.

Nowadays it seems that taking grapefruit juice can be hazardous for those who — as Mr Churchill had — have high blood pressure or other cardiovascular problems, if they are also taking calcium channel blockers, drugs prescribed to treat hypertension and angina.

The Medicines Control Agency, the government body that supervises the safety of drugs, has recently confirmed reports that grapefruit juice, when taken with some calcium channel blockers including the best known one, Adalat nifedipine, can so facilitate the absorption of the drug that a potentially harmful dose of it floods the patient's tissues. The company which manufactures Adalat already includes a warning that in a very few cases grapefruit juice can cause adverse symptoms. They include collapse or a

worsening of the chest pain by bringing on angina.

Martindales, the standard British pharmacopoeia, reports that in patients with high blood pressure, grapefruit juice was found to increase the bio-availability of nifedipine by 234 per cent. Even in healthy individuals the action of these drugs was enhanced by 130 per cent.

Those effects of nifedipine were first described in 1984, but experts differ as to the reason for them. Some insist that it is the flavonoids in the grapefruit that are responsible, others that it is the sesquiterpenoid compounds. The good news is that in the past 16 years repeated experiments have shown that orange juice has no effect on absorption and that a latter-day Prime Minister with high blood pressure could take nifedipine provided that he had orange rather than grapefruit for breakfast.

It was recently reported in America that the pharmacology of at least 13 other drugs is altered by grapefruit juice. But in the main if these drugs cause disaster it would be as a result of indirect rather than direct action.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

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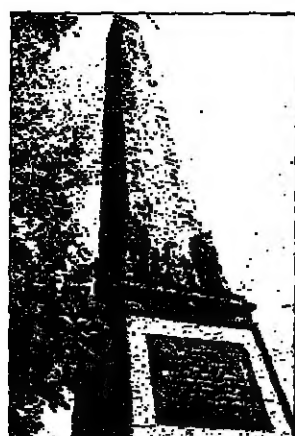
406

PEUGEOT



THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

Time to save Cleopatra's Needle from London?



Needle was once rosy red

By BILL FROST

WORK begins this week on assessing structural and pollution damage to Cleopatra's Needle as fears grow that one of London's best-known but perhaps least appreciated landmarks is in jeopardy.

Pressure is growing for it to be moved from its exposed position by the Thames, alongside the busy and fume-choked Embankment, to a place of safety, such as the British Museum. Over the weekend, engineers from Westminster City Council delicately scraped samples from the 3,500-year-old obelisk,

which was once rosy red but is now a grubby grey. After analysis of the granite chippings, a decision will be made on cleaning the monument. Sandblasters or high-pressure hoses would cause more damage, further eroding the inscriptions which celebrate the victories of Pharaoh Thutmose III. Conservationists will rely instead on sponges and buckets of hot soapy water.

Dick Morrissey, Westminster's manager for parks and open spaces, thinks that a change of site would be fiercely resisted by the public. However, he acknowledges that if structural or severe pollution damage are detected, the pressure to shift the monument would become irresistible.

It is ten years since Cleopatra's Needle was last cleaned, but a survey carried out in 1993 showed that the structure itself was still sound. At the moment our view is that it should stay where it is," he said. "Unless there is a real problem, why put it away in the British Museum, where it loses all impact? The monument should not be hidden away — it was put there so the maximum number of people could see it every day."

Cleopatra's claim on the monument is based on slender evidence that she had it moved from Heliopolis to Alexandria. Already damaged during that move, the obelisk has been through its share of risks down the years. Earthquakes and sea air took their toll in Egypt, so too did German bombs on London. Pollution, traffic rumble and public indifference may prove the most deadly threats of all.

Stephen Quirke, curator of the British Museum's department of Egyptian antiquities, said: "The arrival of Cleopatra's Needle in London in 1878 was a major event. The obelisk brought ancient Egypt and her culture to the very centre of life in Victorian Britain."

The Paris obelisk — found by Napoleon lying in the desert sand at Alexandria before the Battle of the Nile — was by far the best preserved. Dr Quirke said. Rome boasts more obelisks than Egypt, but Cleopatra's Needle, despite the ravages of time and the internal combustion engine, is of immense importance. "Thutmose III was a fascinating figure who shared the throne with his aunt, a rather sinister character," Dr Quirke said. "His was a period of aggressive expansion by Egypt in western Asia. I agree that few Londoners pay much attention to Cleopatra's Needle, and the obelisk has always had enemies. The Greek who owned the land where it stood before being brought here threatened to smash it to pieces. Eminent Victorians, including the novelist Thackeray, thought the expense of transportation excessive for such a 'mutilated' monument."

Leading article, page 21
GILL ALLEN

Best of Victorian ingenuity brought obelisk to Britain

By BILL FROST

CLEOPATRA'S Needle, already 15 centuries old when she was born, might have lain toppled in the sand but for British soldiers campaigning in Egypt during the Napoleonic Wars.

They were fascinated by the obelisk and determined that it should not fall into Bonaparte's hands. He was known to have taken a fancy to the needle and its twin, which is now in New York's Central Park, when he invaded in 1798. He was eventually thwarted by Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile.

The Earl of Cavan, commander of the British troops in Egypt, raised £7,000 from his officers and men to pay the obelisk's passage home. However, the military authorities in London rejected the plan and ordered the earl to hand back the money.

Almost 80 years were to elapse before Cleopatra's Needle was brought to Britain as a monument to the bravery of those who defeated Napoleon on the Nile. In that time, there was widespread indifference to the obelisk's beauty and historical significance.

In 1820 it was offered to George IV on his accession by

the ruler of Egypt, Mehmet Ali. However, the gift was to remain unclaimed until the French erected an obelisk in Paris and Prince Albert pressed for the needle to be brought to London.

Victorian inventors vied with each other to devise ways of transporting the 70ft, 180-ton obelisk to London. The key, though, was sponsorship, as the Government appeared to have little interest in the project.

In 1877 Erasmus Wilson, a wealthy London surgeon, offered £10,000 towards freight and erection costs. John Dixon, a successful and much-respected engineer, was chosen to draw up the plan.

He devised a floating iron cylinder, 92ft long and 15ft in diameter, in which the stone could be towed through the Mediterranean to England. A deck house with steering wheel and accommodation for three men was added with mast and sails to steady the vessel: she was named *Cleopatra*.

By late August 1877 the obelisk had been dug from the sand, dragged to the shore and put aboard. On September 21 the *Cleopatra* was lying on the Embankment, surrounded by wooden scaffolding, tackle and rope.

An elaborate timber frame had already been built and in the following weeks the stone was hauled horizontally, inch by inch, by four hydraulic jacks to a height of 50ft above the pavement. After careful tests, by September 11 all was ready. At 3pm the following day the needle — described by one onlooker as "the oldest thing in London" — was slowly pivoted to a vertical position and slid down into place.

Dixon had first placed a time capsule beneath the site: coins, the day's newspapers, a map of London, one of the four hydraulic jacks, Bibles in four languages, a box of hairpins, a shilling razor, pictures of a dozen "pretty Englishwomen" and a *Bradshaw's Railway Guide to the World*.

All that was missing from the collection, according to a newspaper report of the ceremony, "was the Lord Mayor of London's dropped hat".

towed out of Alexandria by a British steamship. From Egypt to the Bay of Biscay all went well. However, a gale on October 14 all but sank the vessel and her cargo.

The *Cleopatra's* ballast shifted and she broke loose from the steamship. Six men were drowned attempting to reattach the towline and the cargo was almost lost. When the storm abated, a passing vessel took the "wallowing whale" in tow to Valencia, with the owner claiming £5,000 salvage.

The obelisk was eventually to dock off Gravesend in late January 1878. Queen Victoria was said to be "much gratified" at its safe arrival.

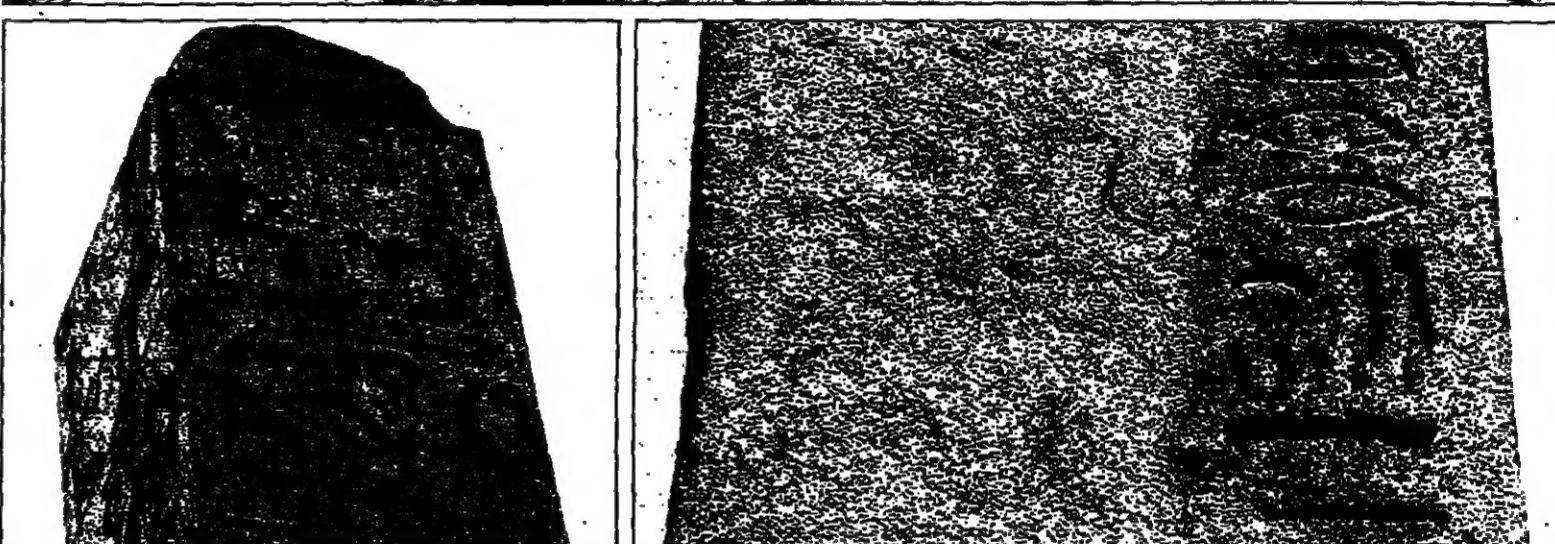
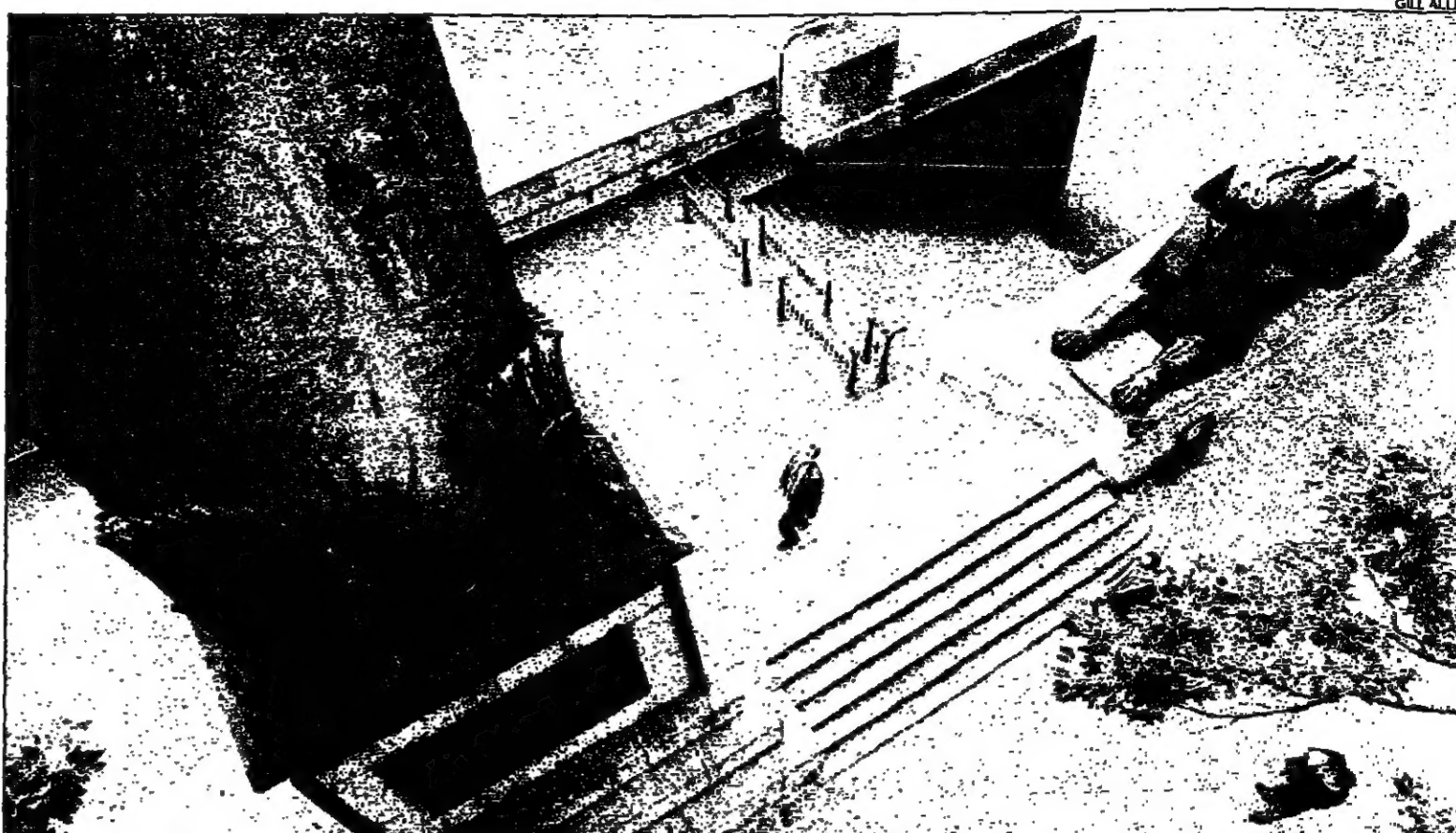
There was to be much heated debate over the stone's resting place. St Stephen's Green, in front of the Houses of Parliament, was eventually chosen and a life-sized replica erected to test public reaction. However, the site was found to be subsiding.

Finally the Embankment was selected and the ship was moored opposite while the site was prepared. Tourists crowded to peer at the needle in its iron "casket" through a hole made in the deck. By early August 1878, the obelisk was lying on the Embankment, surrounded by wooden scaffolding, tackle and rope.

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The world's obelisks are in variable condition: London's, top, is middling; Paris's, left, is the best preserved; New York's has suffered weathering

The revered, the neglected and the gleaming

OTHER cities boast their own obelisks, some neglected, but others well preserved and carefully maintained. Paris: The great obelisk that rises out of the centre of the Place de la Concorde is not only among the most revered monuments in Paris but also one of the cleanest.

An ingratiating gift presented to France in 1829 by Mehmet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, the 75ft spire of rose-pink granite is regularly spruced up and washed by cleaners of the Direction de la Patrimoine, the heritage branch of the French Ministry of Culture. The 225-ton obelisk, a gate pillar from the temple of Luxor with hieroglyphs recounting the reigns of Ramses II and III, was finally erected in 1836. Place de la Concorde is

one of the busiest traffic intersections in a city with one of the worst levels of air pollution in Europe. However, it is a sign of how deeply France values monuments such as the Concorde obelisk that, at a time of intense fiscal austerity, with further spending cuts looming, the culture budget is one of the few expected to escape unscathed.

New York: The twin of London's needle sits exposed to the elements and surrounded by hag ladies and joggers in Central Park, where it is studiously neglected by its keepers.

Tests by the Metropolitan Museum of Art have concluded that the needle is better off without a helping hand. "Everybody is always saying we have to do something about the obelisk," said Jonathan Kuhn, director of arts

and antiquities for the New York City Parks Department. "But in fact it's not decaying much at all. Although you can see a lot of weathering, that happened about 500 BC."

Rome: The great obelisks in Rome's piazzas owe their excellent state of preservation both to the emperors who brought them from ancient Egypt as the plunder of war and the 16th-century Popes who restored and re-erected them.

The most impressive, such as the obelisk at San Giovanni in Laterano and the one in St Peter's Square, are likely to get a third lease of life when Rome is spruced up for the millennium celebrations. Some of the pedestals have suffered wear and tear but the obelisks

themselves glint proudly in the sun, their hieroglyphs still fairly readable and their surfaces clean.

Istanbul: The 3,500-year-old obelisk of Thutmose III stands in the central reservation of what is now the Hippodrome in Istanbul. It is impossible to imagine it being carted off to the city's archaeological museum or any other site: too much time and effort was devoted to getting it to the site in the first place.

However, it suffers from neglect, and cleaning is restricted to collecting litter from its base. Alessandro Ricci, a Byzantine archaeologist, said that the monument was protected by a largely pedestrianised area. There are ambitions, if distant, plans to close the centre of Istanbul to traffic.

How an army of workers used stones to cut through granite

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE London needle was carved from the solid rock by thousands of men, working in time to the sound of a chanter. Like all Egyptian obelisks, it consists of a single piece of granite, with no joints. It may well have come from a quarry in Aswan, where an even larger obelisk lies unfinished, providing clues that have enticed archaeologists to work out how it was done.

The first step was to locate an area of perfect stone from which an obelisk could be cut. Test shafts were sunk into the rock to search for cracks. Assuming none were found, the process began by smoothing the upper surface of the rock.

This was done by heating bricks and placing them on the uneven parts of the surface. The rock was then doused with cold water, fracturing it and making it easier to work with.

The next step was to cut trenches down either side. The workers lacked drills or sophisticated cutting tools, but around the Aswan quarry were found balls of dolomite, a mineral from the Eastern Desert. They weighed 10lb or more and ranged in size from

four to twelve inches. Mounted on the end of wooden stakes, they created the hard ramblers used to cut through the rock.

They were hammered to a regular rhythm, given by a chanter. At any time, several hundred men would have been at work, in teams of three: two standing and hammering and another directing their blows.

It may have taken six months to a year for the teams to dig to the depth required. Then they had to separate the obelisk from the bedrock. Various ways of doing this have been proposed.

One is the construction of

underground galleries, from which the teams would have hauled the obelisk with wooden beams as they cut it away. Alternatively, or in addition, wedges of wood, soaked in water, may have been used to split the rock.

To lift the rough obelisks, levers must have been used, raising each end in turn to allow timber to be placed under it. Cleopatra's Needle weighs 180 tons, but other obelisks are bigger. The largest, now in the Piazza San Giovanni in Rome, weighs 455 tons. The unfinished obelisk still in the ground at Aswan would have been heavier still.



The fallen obelisk as found by British soldiers

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Victim's fund plans computer link to save cavers' lives

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE death of a British woman in a French caving system three months ago has hastened the development of a communications system to warn potholders of floods.

Nicola Dollimore, 31, of the Oxford University caving club and a scientist at Liverpool University's tropical medicine school, died with a Hungarian 2,300ft underground in the Berger caves, near Grenoble. When the cavers descended, the weather forecast was good, but 1½ inches of rain fell in an hour overnight.

Next day, the water had filtered down to the caves as the teams began their ascent. They could not be alerted to the danger because no current communications system could penetrate so far down into the rock.

Ms Dollimore was climbing a steep vertical section known as the Cascades when the water struck. Andy Perrin, her brother-in-law, said: "She was overwhelmed as the water level rose eight feet in eight minutes. She was using a system known as a jammer which slides up the rope but grips if you fall down. The force of the water was too great for her to go forwards, and the jammer would not let her go back. She drowned."

The dead woman was in the

middle of her party. The Hungarian caver died in the same circumstances. Cavers above and behind the water course survived. Mr Perrin said: "If there had been some kind of communication system, they could have been alerted to the danger."

Family and friends have now formed a trust fund to sponsor the development of a communications system in the Berger cave which could also be adapted for other deep cave systems, such as in the Yorkshire Dales.

It makes use of a "Mole Phone", developed by Lancaster University, which can beam low-frequency signals a few hundred feet below ground. Later this month



Dollimore: no warning

French cavers will test a system of repeater stations, in which the Mole signal is turned into a digital code relayed to the bottom of the cave. The repeaters strengthen the signal, which otherwise becomes too weak.

The repeater signals, which can also be relayed back to rescuers on the surface, will be picked up by light, pocket-sized computer, which decodes the messages and displays them as words.

Paul Bojarski, one of the team involved in the trial, said: "The message can be in French or English. We hope this system will improve safety in other caves too."

Mr Perrin hopes part of the trust fund will help make the prototype system a reality, and name it after Ms Dollimore. Cost may make installation unlikely at less popular sites.

The family are also looking to back other projects, such as British cave pager systems being developed at universities by the Cave Research Electronics Group, part of the National Caving Association.

Donations can be made to the Nicola Dollimore Cave Rescue Fund, Lloyd's Bank, 147 High Street, Guildford. Sort code: 30-93-74. Account no: 1326760.



Helena Bonham Carter, Alison Elliott and Linus Roache on location in Venice for *Wings of the Dove*

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

James is latest on the literary hit-list

AFTER Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy, it is Henry James's turn. A hundred years after he described himself as "invincibly unsaleable", film-makers have been avidly rereading him.

At least four adaptations of his novels, set in the last great age of travel, are being filmed this year. First to complete is *Portrait of a Lady*, being premiered at the Venice Film Festival this week. Nicole Kidman plays the American who falls victim to a worthless dilettante in Europe.

In an adaptation of *Wings of the Dove*, directed by Iain Softley in Venice, Helena Bonham Carter stars as Kate, who falls for an impoverished journalist, played by Linus Roache. She has to choose between marrying the man she loves and taking her place in society. *Washington Square* is currently being filmed with Dame Maggie Smith, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Albert Finney. A television film of *The American*

was being shot last month. The film of *Portrait of a Lady*, which was adapted by the BBC as a television serial more than 20 years ago, is directed by Jane Campion, the New Zealander who made her name internationally with the Oscar-winner *The Piano*. Kidman plays the American who challenges the confines of the expatriate circuit in Europe. Among the unsavoury characters she

encounters are a banker and his wife, played by Sir John Gielgud and Shelley Winters respectively, and the dilettante, played by John Malkovich. Richard E. Grant plays the English peer she refuses to marry.

Neither Softley nor Campion found it easy to represent on screen James's analyses of his characters' thoughts. However, Campion said, *Portrait of a Lady* emerged as "a kind of manual of everyday life, dealing with issues as morality, love, death, birth, marriage and divorce as it contrasts innocence and wisdom, dark and light. Europe and America".

Director defends film on terrorist

By DALYA ALBERGE

NEIL JORDAN, the director who has been heavily criticised for his film about the Irish republican Michael Collins, defended his work at the weekend against accusations that he distorted history and turned a terrorist into a hero.

Speaking at the Venice Film Festival, where *Michael Collins* was given its world premiere, Jordan said: "I challenge anyone to demonstrate a more accurate historical movie than this one. It's going to be moving and traumatic when the British and Irish public get to see the film. But that's a good thing."

Michael Collins, which cost £30 million, stars Liam Neeson as the man who founded the Irish Volunteers to attack the British Army and police, but who was later branded a traitor by republicans for agreeing to the partition of Ireland.

Jordan, whose previous films include *The Crying Game* and *Mona Lisa*, said: "Yesterday's terrorist is today's statesman. I make no apology for that." He added that it "spares neither the Irish nor the British in its depiction of the savagery of the time". He said that Collins was forced to resort to violence by the British reluctance to grant independence. The film will be released in the United States in October; a British date is yet to be confirmed.

Lazy wife has her head examined

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A HOUSEPROUD woman who decided she was fed up cleaning and preferred to watch television had to defend herself to doctors who feared that she was ill.

The 55-year-old housewife argued that her change of habit was entirely reasonable after decades of looking after the family home. Doctors in the neurology department of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, agreed with her husband that her personality change required investigation. They were right. A brain scan

discovered a tumour the size of a grapefruit. The surgeon who removed it said it was the largest he had seen. Called a meningioma, it is thought to have been growing for at least 15 years.

Mike Hanna, the neurologist who examined the woman, said: "She was referred to us by her GP because of her husband's concerns. Although her views were perfectly reasonable, we had to take account of her husband's views and those of her family and friends who insisted her behaviour was out of character."

Dr Hanna, who sent a copy of the scan to the *British Medical Journal*, said:

"Nine times out of ten, someone who undergoes a personality change will have a depressive illness. One time in ten, or less, something may be going on in their brain." The benign tumour at the front of her brain was pushing aside the frontal lobes. The tip of the lobes are known to be where aspects of personality such as drive and motivation reside.

Two months after surgery, she has not recovered her enthusiasm for housework. Dr Hanna said: "If the tumour had gone on growing, she would almost certainly have died. The pressure may have changed her personality for good."

Hospitals warn of 'second-rate care'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CRITICALLY ill patients who require specialist treatment may be forced to accept second-rate care under changes planned by the NHS Executive, managers have claimed.

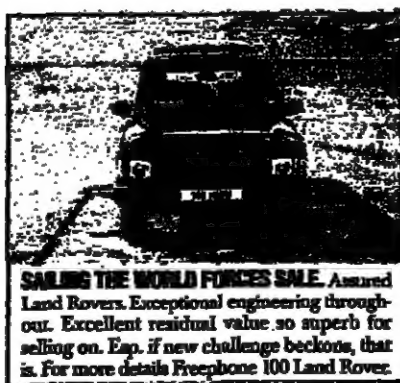
Leading teaching hospitals including Guy's and St Thomas', the Hammersmith Great Ormond Street, are among those that have protested to the Health Department over the changes, to be introduced next April, which they say will put patients' health at risk. Instead of refer-

ring seriously ill patients with complex disorders to centres of excellence, district hospital consultants may try to treat them locally to save money, the managers say. At present those with rare conditions who cannot be treated at their local hospital are sent to specialist units and their health authority foots the bill.

Under proposals by the NHS Executive, control of the funds for these so-called tertiary referrals would be switched from health authorities to local hospitals. The aim is to reduce bureaucracy by siting the clinical and financial decision-making in one place.

However, NHS trust leaders say "clinically inappropriate" decisions could result as consultants come under pressure to save money for their own hospitals. Robert Creighton, chief executive of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, said: "I fear a diminution in the willingness of clinicians in district hospitals to refer. It would be tempting for a district hospital to try to do rather more than it would be suitable to do."

A spokeswoman for the Health Department said that no decision had been made yet. "Whatever happens, patients will not be disadvantaged."



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British bankers fear banishment from exclusive European money club

Over in London the other day for Edward Heath's 80th birthday, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, France's former President, dropped in on Kenneth Clarke and told him a horror story about the future of Europe.

Suppose, said M. Giscard, that Britain opts out of a single currency. You won't just find yourselves outside a club of states which organise their own money supply. Gradually the heart, soul and power of the European Union will shift from the present 15 states to the inner group, whose members might have to found a new



"EU II" as a vehicle in which they could leave some of their old partners behind. M. Giscard predicted that such a sequence of events would leave the EU an empty shell and an impotent talking

shop. Gentle blackmail of this kind has been tried before, but is now starting again as the bankers and officials not distracted by the latest jitters over monetary union pore over the single currency's operating rules. M. Giscard was right: a big issue about the future shape and size of the EU is hidden in small print.

Highly paid men in the City of London are trying to work out if obscure wording such as the "general good provisions" of the Second Banking Directive could be used to shut British banks out of the euro zone if Britain opts out of the currency.

Over-the-horizon thinkers go further and claim that whatever the outcome of technical arguments over discrimination against the "outs", the euro area will become the real single market. The political authority to police it will lie with the states which have fused their currencies. The EU might be born again, unencumbered by the awkward British and the Danes.

Such enticing visions probably did not appear on the agenda at yesterday's meeting in Bonn between Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl; those two men are more preoccupied with the short-term job of calming the

jitters. Part of this calming involves giving Whitehall, Westminster and the City the impression that by missing out on monetary union Britain could trigger a chain of disasters which would shut us out of everything that matters.

Britain might still be a member of the original EU, this night-mare scenario says, but if all the power that mattered had moved to EU II, "staying in" the EU might not amount to much. The first battleground lies in the jungle of rules for bond trading, payment systems and computer software. There is no question that the

French and German governments would like to discriminate against economics outside a monetary union: the issue is whether they can inflict damage. Those who fear that discrimination has started point to last week's decision by the European Monetary Institute to delay — until non-single currency states are no longer round the table — the decision on how "out" countries will be linked to the bank payment system for the euro.

Those who take a more relaxed view point to the EMI's statement that financial institutions beyond the borders of the euro zone will

have access "as close as possible" to those inside.

Clearly risks of retaliation exist, but the most comprehensive review of them I have yet seen, the City's evidence to a House of Lords committee, reveals little anxiety. Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, organised an informal country house meeting of the finance ministers of the Deutschmark zone the other day. People worried about missing the single currency bus fret that Britain cannot be at the heart of Europe. The heart of the EU is the intimate relationship between France

and Germany. Britain has been out of that loop for decades.

If France and Germany decided that the new currency could not exist inside the ill-disciplined EU of 15, they could only cut loose at a price. The single market would disintegrate. Eastern Europe's chances of joining would be knocked back. The world would see an "ever closer union" coming apart. "An EMU of 'Ins' and 'Outs'", report by House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities (Stationery Office)

GEORGE BROCK

ANC forced to consider return of the gallows

BY INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FACED with spiralling crime and calls for the return of the death penalty, Dullah Omar, the South African Minister of Justice, said yesterday that the governing African National Congress would review its opposition to capital punishment.

The decision drew cheers from an ANC summit on crime that came amid mounting criticism of the Government for failing to act decisively against daily murders, rapes and robberies. Under apartheid, South Africa was one of the world leaders in executing criminals, hanging more than 100 a year. The ANC opposed capital punishment, saying it was used mostly against blacks. A moratorium on hanging was declared in February 1990, and in 1995 the new Constitutional Court outlawed executions.

President Mandela admitted for the first time at the weekend that crime in South Africa was "out of control", but appealed to the South African public not to panic.

"When people decide to take

the law into their hands, and even challenge the security forces, then the social fabric is breaking down," Mr Mandela said in an interview with *The Sunday Independent*. South Africa's worsening crime rate has prompted the formation of vigilante groups. In Cape Town last month a Muslim group shot and set alight a drugs gang leader in full view of police.

A spate of high-profile crimes, including the recent car hijack and murder of a prominent businessman employed by a German company, caused the chambers of commerce representing South Africa's four biggest trading partners to issue a warning of the damage crime was doing to investor confidence.

Last week, Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of BMW South Africa, said that the car manufacturer would halt a 1 billion rand investment programme unless the crime level was considerably reduced.

The Government has been accused of dithering in the face



President Mandela and Graca Machel, widow of the late President of Mozambique, added to newspaper speculation in South Africa yesterday when his office confirmed reports they were involved in a serious relationship.

of mounting crime. Admitting it was a "serious situation", Mr Mandela said in his newspaper interview that he was confident that the authorities could bring the situation under control. "I am confident we are making progress."

However, Mr Mandela was short on detail about anti-crime efforts. He brushed aside suggestions that the deployment of a greater number of police would provide a

panacea and said the Government would rather adjust the safety and security budget to target areas of priority, such as criminal intelligence. Mr Mandela noted that the police's 1996-97 statute dealt not only with crime syndicates but was also introspective about problems facing the police force. He said that poverty had to be eradicated and that this would lay the basis for a long-term strategy against crime.

Mr Mandela expressed support for his ministers and pointed out that progress has been made in areas of the country that have suffered acute violence in recent years. "I warned repeatedly in the 1994 election that we want to better the lives of all our people. But we cannot regard this as an event to be achieved overnight. It will take up to five years."

Mr Mandela, who will shortly reach the halfway

point in his presidency, also spoke of his plans to step back further from day-to-day running of the Government and concentrate much of his efforts on building a stronger ANC. Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, and Mr Mandela's heir apparent, has already taken over much of the running of the country and in recent months the President has attempted to bolster Mr Mbeki's standing and influence.

Kremlin subdued as Chechens hail Lebed's peace

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Aleksandr Lebed returned to Moscow at the weekend to persuade the Russian leadership, in particular President Yeltsin, to accept the terms of his peace deal with the Chechens.

While the pact was hailed as a victory by jubilant Chechens and by Russians opposed to the war, at the highest levels of Government the signals were decidedly mixed and nobody openly praised General Lebed's achievement.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that he would chair a meeting today to examine if the peace agreement was acceptable. "I am convinced that we are on the right path now," said Mr Chernomyrdin, regarded as a political rival of General Lebed, but also one of the key anti-war figures in the Government.

After a marathon negotiating session, General Lebed signed a joint declaration and a list of basic principles with Colonel Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen rebel chief of staff, on Saturday morning. The deal put off resolving the key issue of Chechen sovereignty for five years until December 31, 2001.

It also called for the establishment of a joint commission on October 1 to monitor the complete pullout of Russian forces from the breakaway republic and oversee a pro-

gramme for the social and economic recovery of the devastated nation. Moments after signing the document, near the Chechen border at the Dagestani town of Khasav-yurt, General Lebed declared that "the war is over".

As street celebrations erupted across Chechnya at the weekend, there was no doubt in any one's mind that the final decision on the agreement lay with President Yeltsin. The Russian leader, resting at a hunting lodge outside Moscow, has had no face-to-face contact with General Lebed since peace efforts began three weeks ago. Opinion is divided over whether he is too sick to carry out his duties, or is deliberately absenting himself to avoid making a difficult decision.

Over the weekend, President Yeltsin cast doubt over the deal when he refrained from congratulating General Lebed. Instead, the presidential spokesman said the Russian leader was awaiting a "detailed report".

Key members of the Kremlin leadership and the opposition dislike the peace agreement because they fear the ambitions of the power-hungry General Lebed. With Mr Yeltsin's health failing, General Lebed would be in a commanding position if fresh presidential elections took place in the near future.

Bossi wants 'Padania' to join single currency

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

UMBERTO BOSSI, the leader of the separatist Northern League, says he has approached the European Commission in Brussels to inquire about membership of the single currency on behalf of "Padania", the name given by the League to Northern Italy.

"I have written to Brussels asking what

the procedures are for joining on January 1, 1999," Signor Bossi said yesterday. He and his supporters plan to march to Venice (the proposed Padanian "capital"), where they will make a "declaration of independence" on September 15.

The Northern League has no mandate to make the declaration. It won a third of the vote in several northern areas in the general election in April, but has since performed poorly in local elections.

Signor Bossi, regarded as a buffoon by some but as a serious threat to Italian unity by others, said in a letter to the European Commission that Italy had two economies — one in the wealthy and productive north and another in the south, or *mezzogiorno*, which "more closely resembles the economy of a developing nation". The "inevitable logic" was that the two "production systems" should have two different currencies.

Doubts cast over move to Berlin

FROM LÉVIA LINTON IN BERLIN

THE Commissioner in charge of the €10 billion transfer of the government from Bonn to Berlin has admitted the move is "impractical".

As the Bundesrat prepares to vote this month on whether to move to the new capital, the post-unification euphoria of 1991 when the German parliament narrowly voted in favour of moving more than half its ministries to Berlin by the millennium has now evaporated. Instead, controversy over the move is growing as flaws in Germany's ambitious and idealistic plan become clearer by the day.

Dieter Vogel, the commissioner in charge of the move, agreed the plan was costly and added: "Naturally the whole thing is impractical but this is what happens in politics sometimes."

Herr Vogel's view is shared by senior officials in both cities. Bonn residents fear their economy will suffer greatly and voice their concern with regular demonstrations against the move. "The city will receive DM2.81 billion (£1.22 billion) compensation but the atmosphere is still gloomy."

The practical problems of transferring up to nine ministries and up to 20,000 state employees to Berlin are becoming increasingly apparent. Civil servants who face being uprooted have been offered financial incentives, including free monthly return flights from Berlin to Bonn.

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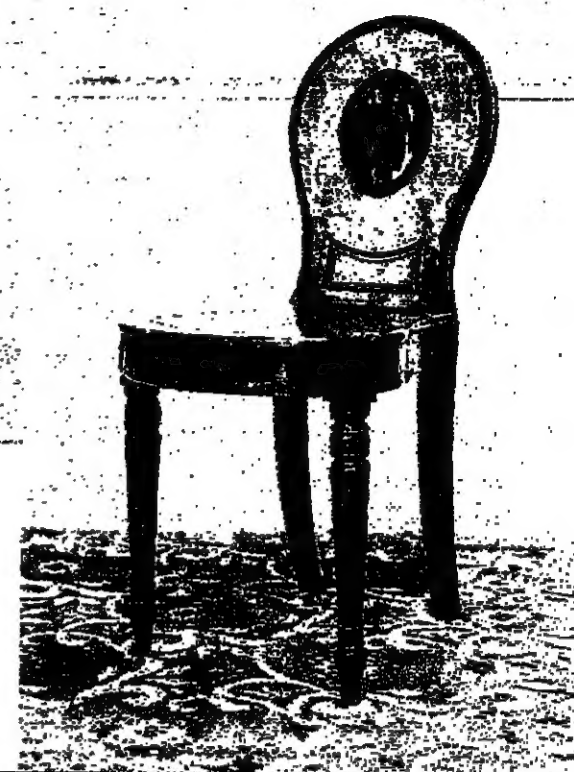
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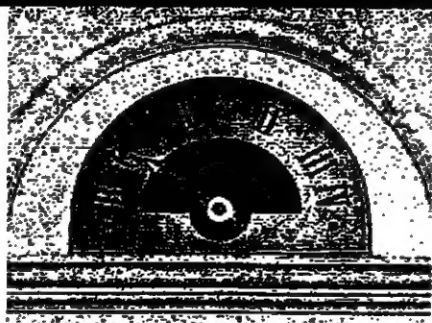


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Iraqi opposition troops 'executed in public' after attack on Western-protected safe haven of Arbil

Saddam tightens grip on rebel Kurd stronghold

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FEARS grew last night that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, defiant and brimming with confidence after his forces overran the Kurdish capital of Arbil inside a Western-protected safe haven, was set to begin an offensive on a second Kurdish city close to the Iranian border. The outskirts of the Kurdish stronghold of Sulaimaniya came under heavy shelling yesterday.

It began hours after Iraq announced it would soon withdraw its troops from Arbil, which was seized in a lightning strike by 40,000 Iraqi tank-led forces on Saturday after a ferocious artillery barrage. Iraq said it had been invited in by the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the two main rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq whose internecine fighting has created a power vacuum that has



been exploited by both Iraq and Iran.

Whether Saddam takes Sulaimaniya will depend on the West's reaction to his capture of Arbil, said Dr Ahmed Chalabi or the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups. He said Saddam had been emboldened by the West's muted response to recent Iraqi stand-offs with United Nations weapons inspectors.

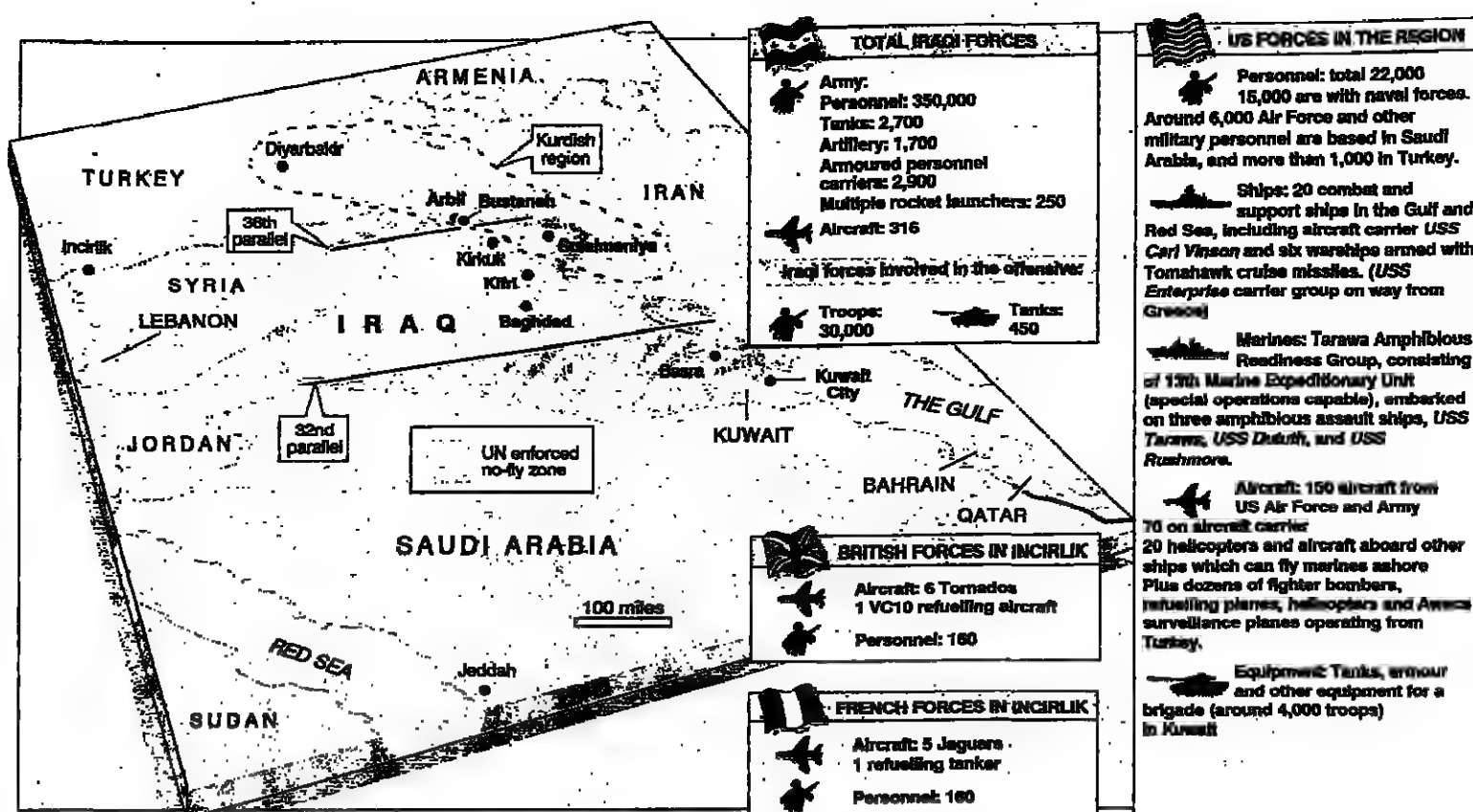
The Kurdistan Democratic Party's collusion with Baghdad presented a dilemma for the West because military retaliation against Iraqi forces in Arbil would risk causing casualties among the Kurds they have sought to protect under an allied air umbrella. Baghdad also claimed it was

responding to "Iranian aggression" because Tehran had given support to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), whose forces had controlled Arbil.

Saddam may have calculated that Washington might turn a blind eye to his offensive in the belief America viewed growing Iranian influence in northern Iraq as a greater threat. Western diplomats in Jordan said. Iran claimed Saddam had acted with "a green light from Washington".

Baghdad, in bellicose statements in the state-run press, warned Washington to keep out of northern Iraq and threatened to turn the area into another Vietnam if America intervened. But announcing Iraq's intention to withdraw, a government spokesman said Baghdad's "political leadership has not decided yet to resume the government administration of the [Kurdish] autonomous region".

The brutal treatment meted out to captured opposition forces in the Arbil area was likely to stiffen Western resolve. Ninety-six officers and soldiers of the Iraqi National Congress were shot dead in public after capture, the group said. It added that their commander, Major Ali Bahr



A Baghdad hawk does a brisk business selling papers with news of the Arbil offensive yesterday

Uloun, who was wounded resisting the Iraqi offensive, had been taken prisoner. The congress said the men were Arabs, rather than Kurds, and had been stationed in the area to monitor an American-backed ceasefire between the Kurds that was due to come into effect tomorrow. "That ceasefire is now shattered", an opposition source said.

Arbil, home to a million people, was quiet yesterday with Iraqi forces and KDP guerrillas jointly patrolling the city's streets where the Iraqi flag was hoisted for the first time in five years since Saddam lost control of northern Iraq. UN sources in Baghdad were unable to confirm

reports from Arbil residents that there had been casualties, but said there was no sign of a mass exodus of refugees. There was strong condemnation of the offensive by Turkey, which feared it would be swamped by refugees as it was after the doomed Kurdish rebellion in the wake of the Gulf war when two million Kurds fled to Turkey and Iran.

The weekend assault involved the biggest movement of Iraqi forces since the 1991 Gulf War and threatened to ignite a confrontation with the Western allies and embolden Iran. Jalal Talabani, the PUK leader whose forces were ousted from Arbil, issued

a warning in a BBC interview that unless the West intervened within a week he would call on Iranian support if Iraqi forces tried to capture Sulaimaniya. There were re-

6 Barzani has struck a Faustian deal that is a terrible betrayal

ports that Iranian forces had penetrated 25 miles inside Iraq at the weekend, but not in such numbers yet that they would risk a confrontation with Iraqi tanks and heavy artillery. Unlike Arbil, which is 12 miles

inside the safe haven, Sulaimaniya is outside the air exclusion zone that Western allies imposed north of the 36th parallel to protect Iraqi Kurds from Saddam's vengeful forces after their doomed rebellion. "The fact it is outside the exclusion zone muddies the legal waters for the allies and makes an Iraqi assault on Sulaimaniya more likely, although we can expect much stiffer resistance there from the PUK, a Western diplomat in Jordan said. The KDP claimed yesterday that more than half the government forces that entered Arbil had withdrawn.

Other Iraqi opposition groups, their power diminished by the fratricidal Kurdish fighting, were dismayed last night that the KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, had apparently thrown in its lot with Baghdad. "Barzani has struck a Faustian deal that is a terrible betrayal for those who saw the Kurds as the backbone of the opposition to Saddam," a dissident said.

Mr Talabani said he had given Washington three days' warning of the attack on Arbil, but was ignored, effectively encouraging the Iraqi leader to strike. "The Americans promised to attack them [the Iraqis]. They did not act decisively."

Washington in favour of military action to punish Iraq

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

HIGH-powered consultations were under way between the United States and its allies yesterday to decide on the options for punishing President Saddam Hussein of Iraq for his offensive against the Kurdish city of Arbil.

The Americans appeared to favour the military option as they considered the alternatives — diplomatic pressure or scrapping the United Nations deal allowing Iraq to sell oil to pay for humanitarian supplies —

insufficient US diplomatic sources said that toughening existing sanctions by repealing UN Resolution 986, which enabled Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil, was not practical and would take too long.

With the military option heading the agenda, the only question was the scale and timing. Based on previous American punishment raids, a limited Tomahawk cruise missile attack — on a target that

would have greatest impact on Saddam's military infrastructure — is most likely. In June 1993, President Clinton authorised a Tomahawk attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad. The missiles were fired from a destroyer in the Red Sea and from a guided-missile cruiser in the Gulf.

Although the US Navy and US Air Force have a formidable array of aircraft in the Gulf region armed with guided missiles, it is unlikely that Mr Clinton would risk American losses, particularly during the run-up to the election in November.

With its fire-and-forget capability and proved accuracy, the Tomahawk is viewed in Washington as the ideal punitive weapon. There are believed to be more than 100 Tomahawk cruise missiles and six US warships which have the capability to carry them deployed in the Gulf region.

Britain and France, which have aircraft at Incirlik to carry out coalition patrols over Iraq north of the 36th parallel, are unlikely to be directly involved in a military strike, although all forces in the region are on a higher state of alert. Britain has

two destroyers in the Gulf. HMS York and HMS Exeter.

America's policy since the Gulf War has been to retain a large military force in the region with sufficient flexibility to act both as a deterrent to further Iraqi aggression and to be capable of launching punitive action when necessary.

Up to 12 American ships have been in the Gulf for the past year with enough equipment for 17,000 US Marines and 2,500 US Army troops. Before the Gulf War, there was just basic cargo and fuel pre-positioned in Gulf states.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Sky makes statement of sporting intent

I was, according to the excited voice at the end of the telephone, a fortnight's worth of sport packed into one weekend. Or was it a month's worth? I forget.

Whichever it was, this far from impartial source was sure about one thing. After a summer of being thoroughly trounced by its terrestrial rivals, this was the weekend that BSkyB rededicated the seriousness of its sporting intent. From one-day cricket to international rugby union, from world championship boxing to the start of the American football season, it was a weekend that left Steve Rider putting a brave face on a *Grandstand* of touring cars and water-skiing.

According to Richard Keys, it was also a weekend of broadcasting history. These,

the excited Sky Sports anchor-man promised 20 minutes before yesterday's kick-off, were the first live television pictures ever to be transmitted from Moldova. They were also very nearly the last. Through a fog of thick diagonal stripes, you could just about make out the profile of something that might once have been Andy Gray. We were back with Keys and the boys Francis (Trevor and Gerry) pronto.

What Keys did not mention was that the pictures of Gray, together with the even worse ones of Gray and Martin Tyler together that followed shortly afterwards, were transmitted by Sky's own state of the art technology. By comparison, the pictures provided by Moldova Television of the match itself, the first live



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

football game it had ever covered apparently, were crystal clear. Okay, by comparison with anything else, they were grainy, wobbly and apparently shot from the top of a small step-ladder, but at least we could see what was going on most of the time. As a chastened Keys put it just before kick-off: "Fingers crossed, this is as new for them as it is for us."

By half-time, Keys had decided that humour was probably the best survival strategy. "Nice to be part of television

history," he said as the players disappeared into a very dark tunnel. Some 15 minutes later, they emerged into an even darker second half — someone had forgotten to put the floodlights on. If you peered very hard into the gathering murk, you could just make out Alan Shearer scoring his first away goal for England.

Before this weekend, BSkyB was saying little about the likelihood of its viewing figures breaking new ground, but there will undoubtedly be

disappointment if they do not get near the previous record of 3.4 million that watched Frank Bruno beat Oliver McCall last September. What is not clear, however, is which event will place the record under most threat once the viewing figures are analysed later today.

Although the satellite network — which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owners of *The Times* — is perfectly placed to reap the benefit of post-Euro 96 euphoria, boxing remains one of its biggest crowd-pullers and Saturday night's clash, between Naseem Hamed and Manuel Medina should have won over a significant number of new converts to Prince Pushy's corner.

Compared to the peak audience of almost 20 million that watched England lose to

Germany in the semi-final of the European championship, Sky's viewing figures look decidedly modest — but they are growing. Second in its all-time hit parade is an audience of 2.8 million for the Newcastle United football match in March, just above the 2.6 million that watched Hamed take on Steve Robinson last September. To find the highest audience for an England international, you have to go back almost 18 months to England against Croatia, the 2.4 million who watched that just having the edge on the 2.1 million that were spellbound by *Diana: Her True Story*. However, be it Hoddle or Hamed for indeed both, I'm afraid the Princess will be out of the frame altogether by the end of today.

IN BRIEF

Komen puts world record to the sword

DANIEL KOMEN, of Kenya, shattered the world record for 3,000 metres yesterday, running 7min 20.67sec at the Rieti Grand Prix track and field meeting.

Komen, who set the standard for two miles in July at Lappeenranta, Finland, shaved more than four seconds off Nourredine Morceli's old 3,000-metre mark of 7min 25.11sec, set in Monte Carlo in 1994. Helped by pacemakers, Komen was about eight seconds ahead of Morceli's record pace through 2,000 metres and ran alone the final four laps.

Wilson Kipketer, of Denmark, missed eclipsing Sebastian Coe's 15-year-old 800 metres world record by just 0.01sec when he clocked 1min 41.83sec at the same meeting.

Sad collapse

Golf: Bill Longmuir saw his chance to clinch the Johnnie Walker PGA Cup for Great Britain and Ireland slip away with a disastrous collapse in the deciding final match at Gleneagles yesterday.

Longmuir, of Stoneyhill, bogeyed the final four holes to surrender a commanding two-hole lead and give Jeffrey Roth, his opponent, a surprising two-hole triumph that enabled the United States to retain the title.

That disappointing finale meant Great Britain and Ireland tied with their American counterparts at 13-13 in the prestigious biennial contest for club professionals.

The visitors retain the Llandudno Trophy as the defending champions from two years ago at Palm Beach, Florida.

Barn stormer

Hockey: Mark Barn scored all three goals for England in a 3-1 victory over Belgium in the men's European Cup at Vejle, Denmark yesterday.

The Belgians had scored first from a penalty corner, but the scores were level at 1-1 by half time. In the remaining pool A match, Holland defeated the Czech Republic 5-3. Bram Lomans, a member of the gold medal-winning team in Atlanta, scored four goals for the Dutch.

Crump's aims

Speedway: Jason Crump, 21, was crowned British Grand Prix champion at Hackney's London Stadium on Saturday night.

The victory revived his hopes of staying in next year's grand prix series. Only the top eight finishers in this year's six-round series are certain to qualify.

Eagles soar

Ice Hockey: The one surprise in the first round of group matches in the Benson and Hedges Cup was the home defeat of the highly-touted Newcastle Cobras 6-3 by the Ayr Scottish Eagles, in which David St Pierre and Jiri Lala each scored two goals.

CYCLING

Boardman targets Rominger record

BY PETER BRYAN

THE five-day world track cycling championships, which ended yesterday, provided a wonderful showcase for Manchester's National Cycling Centre, with nine records eclipsed, including the unforgettable performance by Chris Boardman, who took pursuing on to a new planet with his gold medal-winning time of 4min 11.14sec.

Boardman clearly relishes racing there. He could have chosen any velodrome he wished to make his planned attempt this week on the one-hour record of 35.291 kilometres, held by Tony Rominger. But he has settled for Manchester, with Friday as the provisional date for his bid to regain the record he last held in 1994.

Rob Hayles was the only British rider in action during the final session yesterday. The crowd at the sell-out finale rose as Hayles mounted a series of determined attacks in the 40 kilometre event (160 laps), gaining one point in the opening sprint and then going on to take a maximum five points in the second.

Those two efforts, however, appeared to sap Hayles' strength and he hardly figured again in a race that gave Juan Llaneras, of Spain, his first world title. He led on points with Michael Stanout, of Denmark, but won after a comeback of the two riders' finishing positions in each of the 20 sprints.

Antonella Bellutti, the women's Olympic pursuit champion who had twice broken her own world record during the early rounds, suffered a surprise defeat in her semi-final match against Lucy Tyler-Sharman, of Australia.

Tyler-Sharman produced a last-lap challenge to Bellutti and went through to the final by the narrow margin of three hundredths of a second to meet Marion Clignet, of France.

The Australian used a conventional position and made a fast start in the final to draw ahead as Clignet wound up her high gear before she settled into the stretched-out "superman" style.

At the end of the first kilometre, Clignet established her superiority, speeding smoothly ahead to clock a winning time of 3min 31.025sec.

BOWLS

Schoolgirl Gowshall shows way

BY DAVID RHYNS JONES

AMY GOWSHALL, a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Grimsby Park Avenue, qualified for next year's British Isles junior singles championship when she won the English Under-25 singles final at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday.

Gowshall, who defeated Helen Pettit, of Shepherd's Bush, 21-6 in the final, looked on her way out in the semi-finals. She trailed Carol Hancy, of Wigton, 6-16, but recovered her composure to score three twos and two threes on her way to a 21-19 victory.

Pettit had beaten two British junior champions on her way to the final, sweeping aside Lisa Smith, the 1994 champion, from Welford-on-Avon, who was expecting a baby, in October 21-5, then accounting for Kathryn Hindle, the reigning champion, of Wilton, in Wiltshire, 21-6.

Gail Fitzgerald, a Metropolitan Police Inspector, and her club-mate Audrey Moore, of Haynes Park, Hornchurch, won the National Women's Double Century Sherry pairs title on Saturday, beating Sheila Jones and Sue Hawksworth, from Bridport, 18-13 in the final.

Rather confusingly, perhaps, Gail Fitzgerald, of Keighley Lodge, Northampton, who is no relation, won the Henslette Champion of Champions singles title. Fitzgerald did well to turn a 10-15 deficit into a 21-15 victory over Judy Fawcett, of Nafferton, in the final.

Lincolnshire won the Middleton Cup for the second time, at Worthing on Saturday, beating Worcestershire 112-102. Worcestershire, making their first appearance in the final, won on three rinks and drew on a fourth, but Robbie Robertson, in his 31st Middleton Cup season, and Derek Skelton both posted 27-0 victories to tip the match Lincolnshire's way.

TENNIS: VETERAN SWEDEN MOVES SWEETLY TO QUARTER-FINAL ENCOUNTER WITH HENMAN OR MARTIN

Edberg swift to dispatch Haarhuis

FROM DAVID MILLER IN NEW YORK

MAYBE he had heard the meteorologists forecasting that a hurricane was likely to sweep into Flushing Meadows sometime yesterday. Stefan Edberg, playing in his 54th consecutive grand-slam event, was in no mood for delay when dismissing Paul Haarhuis, of Holland, 6-4, 7-6, 6-1 to reach the quarter-final.

He will meet the winner of Tim Henman and Todd Martin, the No 12 seed, who were due to play in the early hours of this morning (BST).

Predictably, Edberg had the stadium centre court with him all the way and from first to last, with the exception of the only service game he lost, his backhand volley at the net was a thing of pure delight. In the best sense, he strikes the ball almost as though from memory, a rhythmic timing as perfect as a watch spring's.

Both men are 30 and they are ranked two places apart. Haarhuis is the higher at No 26, yet their careers are at strangely different points. Haarhuis at his peak, Edberg enjoying his swansong tour. Here was yet one more match for Edberg to place upon the shelf of pleasant memories.

Haarhuis is something of a comedian. Perhaps that derives from having devoted much of his time to studying economics at universities in Savannah and Tallahassee from 1985 to 1988, and keeping the game in perspective. Asked how long he would continue playing, he replied: "Maybe a year, if I play the way I did today."

Even if nothing further were to happen of special note in the coming week, the US Open of 1996 is likely to be remembered for the first encounter between Anna Kournikova, the 15-year-old Russian prodigy, and Steffi Graf, queen of the women's game. Their

scheduled fourth-round meeting will be the focus of the first day of the second week, after Kournikova's outstanding victory late on Saturday night over Barbara Paulus, the No 14 seed, from Austria.

Prior to play yesterday, which, with the evening floodlit programme, continues into early morning, eight seeds had been eliminated in each of the men's and women's singles. The fascination of the men's draw is the probable quarter-final encounter between Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster, the respective No 6 and No 3 seeds, the two of them having earlier in the year had a war of words over Muster's ranking credentials as the No 1, based on a predominance of clay-court

Results 39

performances. Agassi, should he beat the big-serving David Wheaton, would have something to prove when he confronts the pile-driving Muster. Graf and Kournikova have never met. The occasion would be enough to overawe most youngsters of Kournikova's age, yet one of her most extraordinary qualities is her apparent immunity to the tensions of the big occasion. She sailed through her third-round match against Paulus with barely a sigh of dismay, never mind that there were repeated occasions when the tide seemed to have run against her.

Her self-possession is daunting for her older opponents. "I didn't expect her to be that good," Paulus said. "I'd never seen her except in the locker-room. I tried to play top spin, but I was too short and she made points everywhere."

Sometimes, she played serve-and-volley, when I didn't expect that."

Paulus considered that Kournikova has a different game from her equally youthful rival, Martina Hingis, of Switzerland — namely that Kournikova is the more aggressive, comes more to the net and is a sharp volleyer.

Kournikova's match temperament is exceptional. Asked whether she was disappointed to have lost a 3-0 lead in the final set against Paulus, she replied: "I was not disappointed at all, which was normal. I was trying to get back in the match."

Paulus had taken the first set 6-3. Kournikova then taking command to claim the second. With her service faltering slightly, her lead in the final set was erased as Paulus took four games in a row to lead 4-3 and had Kournikova 0-40 on her service. The young Russian's nerve held, she saved the game and, calmness itself, took the next two for the match. Considering the obsessiveness with which Kournikova trains, the freshness that she retains on court is not the least remarkable aspect of her performance. Graf is going to have to be wide awake.

The surviving seeds in the women's singles were Graf alone in the top quarter; all four — Sanchez Vicario (3), Hingis (16), Habsudova (17) and Novotna (7) — in the second quarter; Davenport (8), Martinez (4) and Seles (2) in the bottom half. All of these last-named three were scheduled to play late yesterday.

There were also eight surviving seeds in the men's singles, in which the top half of the third round was being completed yesterday. In the bottom half, besides Agassi v Wheaton and Muster v Enqvist, of Sweden, the No 13 seed, the bottom quarter of the already completed last 16 is Javier Sanchez, of Spain, v Arnaud Boetsch, of France, and Jacob Hlasek, of Switzerland, v Michael Chang, the No 2 seed. On Saturday, Chang survived a weary battle against Vince Spadea, from Florida, after being two sets to one down.



Kournikova drives a high backhand during her three-set victory over Paulus

RUGBY LEAGUE: BRADFORD'S VALIANT EFFORTS PROVE TO NO AVAIL IN PREMIERSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Evergreen Edwards saves day for Wigan

Wigan 42
Bradford Bulls 36

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHEN Brian Smith returns to Sydney this week, the Bradford Bulls coach will reflect on the outstanding contribution of his team to the two best games of the season — and the reasons why he is going back to Australia without having won a cup.

At Wembley, in the finest Challenge Cup final in modern times, Bradford eventually subsided under an aerial bombardment by St Helens. In an intoxicating first Premiership semi-final, the ball came skidding, low and awkward. Three times, Shaun Edwards was on the end of it.

Smith's opinion that the best side lost was not misplaced. Indeed, Andrew Farrell, the Wigan captain, shared it. "Half the time we were running round like headless chickens," he said. "We were lucky. Every time we got on top, we stopped playing, and you can't do that against Bradford."

Edwards scored four tries, his first was a more conventional one in supporting Henry Paul. Overall, his performance was a reminder of his scoring prowess and of how much Great Britain will miss him at scrum half this

autumn in Papua, New Guinea, Fiji, and New Zealand. He requires knee surgery. Not that his reflexes appeared anything other than sharp on Saturday night.

His unsavoury tactics against Robbie Paul, his opposite number, and Bradford's inspirational force, which brought Edwards an early sin-binning, were not worthy of him. What followed, was, though. Having earlier got

what he wanted in an extended contract at Wigan until 1998, Edwards put himself about the field to extraordinary effect.

In what was Robbie Paul's last game before a short-term move to rugby union at Harlequins, might have ended differently. He saved two fine tries, the first a carbon copy of his memorable Wembley hat-trick. Outside him, Graeme Bradley managed three, but

displays of individual brilliance are not compensation for having been in a losing cause.

The possibility of Wigan ending up with a rare trophy cabinet for the first time in a dozen years remained, until injury time, and Ellison's second try. Bradford took them on a white-knuckle ride, a credit to how Smith, who is taking his alchemist's touch to Parramatta, has transformed a team of base talents.

Three Wigan tries, including one for the scrumback by Henry Paul, would have killed any other side off at 32-16. Within 15 minutes, Bradford were level. Not even Edwards' last try, in pursuit of Paul's kick, would do. Bradley charged in for his third, but McNamara missed the equalising goal.

Smith's abiding memory on the homeward journey will be of Farrell peeling off the scrum. Edwards providing the link, and Ellison disappearing over the horizon. They might not have any baubles this season, but good times, surely, beckon Bradford.

In the pack, McDermott, McNamara, and Dwyer are in the British party. Lowe, the hooker, is expected to be called up this week. Calland is not to be going. He claimed the simplest of tries while Wigan hesitated, a recurring theme of the first period, in which blow was traded for blow.

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Western Samoa 38-16 in Saturday's final at Salford.

New Zealand won the third-fourth place final by beating France 22-20. England, who never fully recovered from their surprise loss to France on the opening day, lost the Bowl final 22-20 to South Africa. In a tournament in which few teams left empty-handed, the Plate competition went to Wales, who beat Ireland 20-12.

Leeds, in addition to putting Dean Clark, Alan Tait and George Mann up for sale in an end-of-season clearance, are looking to make a two-for-one exchange deal with Wakefield Trinity for Dato Porelli, the Wales back, with Matthew Schultz and Marcus Vassiliakopoulos going to Bell View.

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Ruthless Williams give Hill his marching orders



Williams: single-minded

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE MURKY truth of how it all happened still lies buried in a silt of subterfuge, but yesterday the depths surrendered their victim. At the beginning of the week in which Damon Hill will strive to achieve the crowning point of a dedicated and distinguished Formula One career, he was finally told what others have suspected for months: at the end of this season, he will be sacked by the Williams team.

Hill will climb into the cockpit of his Williams-Renault for the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sunday, his head swimming with the irony that a win for him there and anything less than third place for his team-mate and sole challenger, Jacques Villeneuve, will allow him to decorate his summary dismissal with the sport's most coveted prize, the drivers' world championship.

His first worry will be whether Williams will pour their energies into Villeneuve's efforts to overhaul his 13-point lead in the race for the title. The young Canadian is sure to be with the team next year and a championship victory for him would ensure the prestigious No 1 would adorn a Williams in 1997.

Yet Hill's long-term future, too, is now shrouded in doubt. Most of the top drivers for next season are already occupied and his best hope would seem to be the seat alongside David Coulthard at McLaren, should it be vacated by Mika Hakkinen, or a place in the ambitious Jordan-Peugeot team, who could use sponsorship money from Benson and Hedges to pay his salary.

Hill's place at Williams next season will almost certainly be taken by Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the highly-rated German driver,

who was once thought a better prospect than Michael Schumacher. Williams tried to sign Frentzen, 29, after the death of Ayrton Senna in May 1994, but Frentzen chose to honour his contract with the Swiss Sauber team, for whom he has raced in 45 grands prix, with a best finish of third.

Sources inside the Williams team insisted again yesterday that the deal with Frentzen had been concluded almost a year ago, between the Pacific and Japanese grands prix in the last week of October. It was kept a fiercely-guarded secret and the charade of negotiations with other drivers, especially Hill, was enthusiastically pursued.

The news sent shockwaves through the sport yesterday and is likely to dismay ITV, who have just paid £70 million to cover Formula One for the next five years in Britain and are now faced with a champion-

ship battle between two Germans, Frentzen and Michael Schumacher, in his Ferrari, and a French-Canadian, Villeneuve.

The statement from Williams, when it came, was curt. A response to the news from Hill's manager, Michael Breen, that the team had broken off contract negotiations with their leading driver, it spoke briefly of how the Englishman's "services" would not be required next year. His replacement, it said, would be announced "in due course". There were no thanks for four years of service, no acknowledgment of the way Hill had led the team through its despair when Ayrton Senna was killed at Imola in May 1994, no praise for the way he has dominated the Formula One championship this season with seven victories from 13 races.

In past years, Williams, who holds a barely-disguised contempt

for the self-importance assumed by most modern grand prix drivers, has made a habit of parting company with world champions. Nelson Piquet left at the end of 1987, Nigel Mansell stormed off to the IndyCar series after his triumph in 1992 and Alain Prost retired at the end of 1993 when he realised Williams had signed Senna to be his team-mate the following year.

Williams, of course, holds the whip hand because he has the best car, a sublime piece of engineering that is a tribute to the excellence of his technical director, Patrick Head, and his chief designer, Adrian Newey. Those who doubt Hill's talent claim he has only been so successful because of the machinery at his disposal.

This time, though, Williams has gone one better by sacking Hill, 35, who has won 20 of his 64 grands prix, a ratio third only to Juan

Fangio and Jim Clark, before he has even clinched the championship.

Some observers were already suggesting yesterday that Hill had priced himself out of the drive by racing Williams for too much money, but Hill and Breen had long acknowledged they would not be able to extract a big rise out of the team owner and were prepared to settle for a modest salary.

The search for a motive for Williams' decision probably need not be extended beyond the person of Schumacher. Williams is worried that he and Ferrari will be a greater threat next season and is desperate to stave off their revival. When Frentzen was signed last season, he was the sport's hottest prospect and Hill was going through a torrid time at the hands of Schumacher. Things have changed now, but for the Englishman, his probable first title has come too late to save his job.

CRICKET: CENTURIES ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS FOR WARWICKSHIRE LEFT-HANDER AS ENGLAND SECURE TEXACO TROPHY BY 2-1 MARGIN

Pakistan salvage consolation in dramatic fashion

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (England won toss): Pakistan beat England by 107 runs

THERE was a desultory, irrelevant air to proceedings at Trent Bridge yesterday but try telling that to Nick Knight. While Pakistan, breathlessly and witlessly, salvaged a consolation win from a Texaco Trophy series they had already lost, Knight was flustered by the feathers of cricket statisticians by making his second international century in successive days.

This was quite some achievement for a man who only made his one-day debut for England on Thursday and Knight, whose durable temperament at this level was already acknowledged, has now added an adaptable approach to his growing list of virtues.

In a generally unproductive summer for England, he has been a significant gain.

Knight claimed a further distinction yesterday by carrying his bat through 50 overs, besting an innings that, in all other respects, fell short of expectations. England totalled 246 and, even against a patchy Pakistan side, this seemed insufficient. They looked likely to be beaten without recourse to nailing drama but from the sturdy platform of 177 for two Pakistaners indulged in kamikaze cricket to produce a finish of high force and considerable tension.

Five wickets were lost for 42 inside ten overs before Rashid Latif, who had tried so hard to run himself out that he even set off to the pavilion after misreading the third umpire's traffic light signal, finally got them home with two balls and two wickets in hand. England, while not at their best, remained hard to beat and

ended the day with rather more dignity than the victors. It might be said that this game was devalued before it began. A best-of-three series rather loses its edge when one team wins the first two and the response of the Pakistanis, vanquished despite starting out as firm favourites, was to give the also-runs of their touring party an outing. Their five changes saw Imzamm-ul-Haq, Salim Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed omitted, among others, and provided one-day international debuts for three players.

Some things did not change. Wasim Akram maintained his 100 per cent record with the toss for choice of balls, and has now won a remarkable six out of six, and the state of the series did not discourage a

Yorkshire stay top 28
Jones motivates 29

third consecutive capacity crowd. They were arming themselves with doleful football chants and Mexican waves before the diverging finish claimed their attention. England might have been out of range if Alec Stewart's rich form had not let him down at the last. His previous scores against Pakistan, in Test and Texaco matches, were a model of consistency — 39, 89, 170, 44, 54, 48 and 46. Yesterday, he had made only three when he went back to Wasim, misjudged the slowness of the pitch and jabbed a lame return catch.

Pakistan's fielding has been memorably sub-standard in these games and they paid a heavy price for missing a regulation chance in the 12th over. Knight pulled Waqar at comfortable height to square leg, where Ijaz fumbled it.

Knight announced his intentions by stroking the next ball sweetly through cover and added two more fours in the over.

Wasim reacted with his first bowling change and the introduction of Shahid Nadez, 18, was a painful experience for Michael Atherton. The England captain was hit on the right thumb by a rising ball and retired hurt.

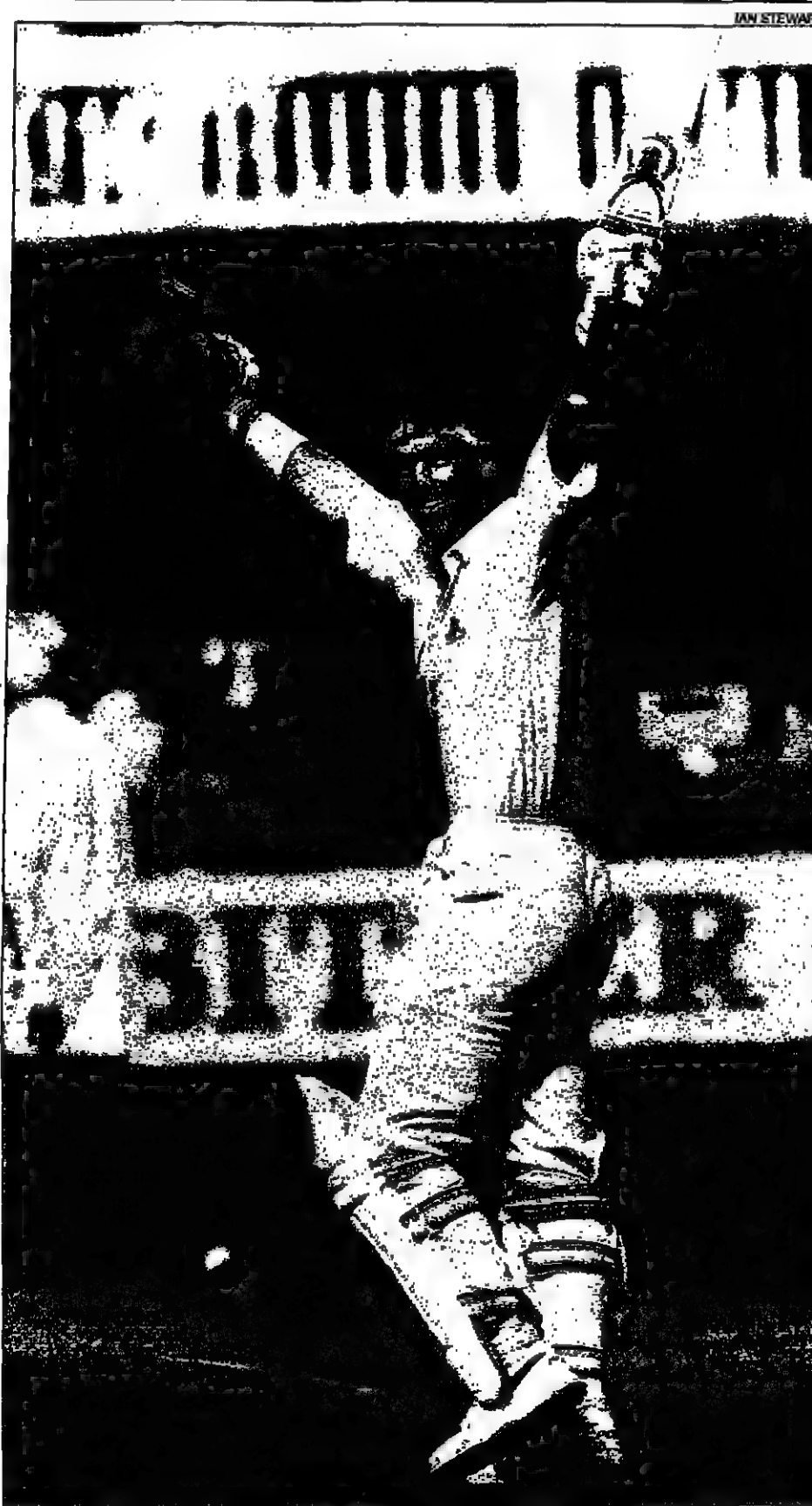
Initial reports that he would take no further part proved premature — Atherton is made of sterner stuff. He returned at the fall of the fifth wicket and led the side in the field but did submit to an X-ray last night.

The remainder of England's innings would have been a sorry saga but for the sustaining influence of Knight. Not quite as cavalier as he had been on Saturday, he nevertheless exerted a control which proved beyond any of his team-mates.

As Maynard, Lloyd, Irani and Hoolieake all squandered the opportunity to impress, Knight pressed on busily, hitting relatively few boundaries but missing no chance to put the Pakistani fielding under pressure. He became the first Englishman to make successive one-day centuries since Graham Gooch, a spectator here, in 1985.

Saeed Anwar set Pakistan on course with a fluent 61 and in 15 overs they had made 92 without loss. Until Aamir Sohail was third out, to the admirable Croft, they were batting with quiet authority.

Thereafter, they seemed possessed by demons and conceded four wickets to the unconsidered bowling of Hoolieake for the second successive day. It was crazy cricket but at least it gave the spectators something to remember.



Knight waves bat and helmet as the crowd applaud his hundred at Trent Bridge

Assured Croft makes sure of tour place

BY ALAN LEE

EDGBASTON (Pakistan won toss): England beat Pakistan by 107 runs

ROBERT CROFT has seen his life change inside a fortnight. His profile is suddenly high, his horizons expanded, his talent acknowledged unquestioningly. The Welsh will not be remotely surprised by this, simply puzzled that the English took so long to listen to their insistence that Croft is the best slow bowler in the country.

They have always rated him highly in Glamorgan and resented the fact that England appeared to come up with endless alternatives. This calendar year alone, Mike Watkinson, Richard Illingworth, Neil Smith, Min Patel and Ian Salisbury were preferred before the selectors turned, almost apologetically, to Croft, and the Welsh will tell you that none of them matches up to their man.

It began to look as if Croft, at 26, would become no more than a county journeyman, one of those to whom the fast lane was mysteriously prohibited, until selection for the last Test match of summer proved him to be one of those rare, self-confident cricketers who have no need to crave a second chance.

He was England's best bowler at the Oval, a distinction he has since maintained in the Texaco one-day internationals. He is precise in his control and contrives to be simultaneously unflappable yet bubbling with enthusiasm. Those who continued to doubt him, believing his range limited, will surely have been reassured by the way in which he took his two wickets at Edgbaston on Saturday, two critical contributions towards the overwhelming win that guaranteed England the trophy.

First, he snared Imzamm. Quite what a potential match-winner was doing coming in as low as No 5, with the total a sorry 54 for three, is a matter for the Pakistani tacticians to regret, but Croft sensed his anxiety, saw him advancing down the pitch and dragged the ball shorter to prevent Imzamm getting to the pitch. Maynard, Croft's county captain, took the catch at long-on as if it was a rehearsed Glamorgan manoeuvre.

Croft's dismissal of Ijaz Ahmed, who had played some wondrous strokes in making 79 from 80 balls, was different but equally impressive. Croft's natural one-day trajectory is flat and he deceived Ijaz with a ball of looping flight, perfectly pitched and turning enough to defeat the drive and bowl him between bat and pad — a classical piece of off spin.

Croft is a countryman, fond of shooting and fishing in the Welsh winters. He will have to sacrifice such pleasures in favour of touring Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter, and if his suddenly automatic selection in the senior tour party says much about desperate English bowling, it also reflects admirably on the im-

pression he has made in a remarkably short time.

There were others keen to emulate him. Irani and Hoolieake are scrapping over one touring vacancy, as the putative all-rounder, and neither damaged his prospects. However, while Irani made his mark as a batsman, the stronger suit in both their games, Hoolieake's four late wickets were of more significance to his ambitions than to an already expired game.

Irani batted sensibly and unselfishly after England had declined from 103 without loss to 168 for four. He ensured that they batted out the overs — something Pakistan culpably failed to do later — and his unbeaten 45 took them to a formidable 292 for eight.

Two years ago, on a similarly immaculate Edgbaston pitch, Australia comfortably chased 278 to win a Texaco Trophy game. Pakistan might have been inspired by that but, instead, their innings perished through the impetuosity and muddled thinking that they avoided in the Test series. Hoolieake's late strikes, gained with judicious use of variations in pace, simply brought the game to a premature end.

It was a comforting day for



Croft: confident

Shining Knight illuminates end-of-season offering

By George, he's got it. It is, after all, one of sport's great pleasures: to be there at the moment when a great player emerges from the chrysalis of potential and for the first time takes wing. So and so did well, someone will say. Yes, you reply, I think he's got it, you know.

That was the standard conversation at Wimbledon this year. And I, like many others, was convinced that he had got it. When Tim Henman served an ace when match point dawned, I knew we were not watching just another gallant Brit enjoying his moment in the sun.

No, playing on Centre Court against the No 5 seed was not for Henman the

fulfilment of a dream, that was obvious. Henman was not surprised to be there, and not particularly grateful, either. It was merely for him the logical next step. His decent showing at the US Open reconfirms that slightly spooky feeling so many of us had about him — that we might be seeing the start of something really rather good.

I wonder if the same sort of thing has been happening around the Midlands in the last couple of days. Everywhere you turn to the cricket, there is Nick Knight with his bat in the air and his helmet in his hand, acknowledging yet another landmark.

He has scored two centuries in two days, enough to make even the most convinced athe-

Simon Barnes on an England find with the potential for real greatness

ist believe that there might be some meaning to the existence of the Texaco Trophy, the otherwise footling end-of-season series of one-dayers. These can be set alongside Knight's maiden Test match hundred three weeks' back, necessarily an affair of rather more gravitas.

Has he got it, then? Well, perhaps. Both these hundreds were intriguing not for their flashiness, but for their composure, their control. For all the exuberance of some of the shots, the runs were logically compiled. As with Henman, though not to the same

marked extent, there is a touch of coldness in Knight.

The Saturday hundred was memorable for some volitional shot making in the first 15 overs, but any batsman of considerable talent, might do that. But after the thrilling bit, the loss of two sudden wickets, Knight had the nous to lift his foot of the gas pedal and to play a different game. His 50 took 47 balls, his 100 took 120.

Yesterday, two batsmen went early (though Atherton, retiring hurt, was to come back) and again, Knight adjusted his game, offering a

more measured knock. This time he reached 50 in 58 and again the 100 to 120, an unbeaten 125 runs in all. Throughout, he was unembarrassed by the responsibility, by the sense of occasion and by the clatter of wickets at the other end. So perhaps he has got it.

Yes, but got what, I hear you ask. Not an easy question. A future, yes, that is one answer. As for talent, no, not exactly. The talent for having talent (a favourite theme of mine) that is a more important part of the answer, but not yet the whole of it.

It is not exactly this business of coldness either. Or not necessarily. In Henman's coldness, in Knight's composure, there lies the secret, but

the coldness itself is not the secret. These things are only the indicators. For when Dominic Cork emerged last summer, it was plain that he had it but what he had was indicated by heat rather than chill, by inspiration rather than calculation.

I think I can only define it by a negative. It is a lack of vertigo. There is absolutely no sense of, 'well, gosh, here I am, what a hoot and maybe I can hang about at this level for a little bit longer yet'. No, for players who have got it, to be at 'this level' gives no great sense of achievement, still less privileged. No 'this level' is merely a base camp from which assaults on the high peaks of sport's mountain range can be mounted.

TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

England won toss																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																</
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EDGBASTON SCOREBOARD

Pakistan won toss		BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-0-50-0 (nb 1, 4 fours; 5-0-24-0, 5-0-25-0; Wasim Akram 9-0-54-1 (8 fours; 4-0-38-0, 2-0-12-0, 3-0-14-1), Aamir Sohail 6-0-40-0 (nb 1, w 1, 1 six, 3 fours; 2-0-22-0, 4-0-17-1), Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-58-1 (nb 2, w 1, 8-0-34-0, 2-0-5-1), Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-35-2 (1 four; one spell); Aamir Sohail 5-0-31-0 (nb 1, w 2, 1 six, 1 four; one spell)		Wasim Yoursie bow b Gough ... 4 (11min, 11 balls) Aamir-Rehman c Knight b Hoolieake 2 (13min, 15 balls) Extras (lb 25, w 4, nb 3) ... 32 Total (37.5 overs, 158min) ... 186	
ENGLAND		Score after 15 overs: 111-2		FALL OF WICKETS: 1 (Saqlai) 2, 5 (Saqlai) 6, 3-54 (nb 21, 4-104 (fif 64), 5-137 (Saqlai 77), 6-164 (Saqlai 23), 7-164 (Saqlai 23), 8-169 (Mushtaq 4), 9-177 (Mushtaq 4))	
N V Knight at Moin b Saqlain	113	PAKISTAN		BOWLING: Gough 10-0-58-3 (nb 1, 4 fours; 5-0-31-2, 5-0-35-1), Mullaly 5-0-30-1 (1 six, 2 fours; one spell) Headley 7-0-32-0 (2 fours; 3-0-10-0, 4-0-22-0), Croft 2-0-25-0 (4 fours; one spell); Aamir Sohail 5-0-37-1 (1 four; one spell); Hoolieake 5-0-57-2 (1 four; one spell); Hoolieake 5-0-57	

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JUNE 1993

THE TIMES
Bath soon
back in
the groove
despite
rusty start

The proposed midweek meeting of the four unions — Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France — who threaten to expel England from the five nations' championship has been postponed until next

Whatever anyone may say, club rugby

Tom Kiernan, chairman of the five nations' committee, observed yesterday that attendance figures across the board

But yesterday the potential for division entered yet another phase in Scotland, where members of the national squad, many of them contracted to clubs in England, heard details of plans for autonomous competitions run by the breakaway English and Welsh clubs. Keith Robertson, chief executive of Scot-

England players, who assemble for squad training on Wednesday, will be keen to hear about their situation from RFU representatives. There is no doubting the earning potential of England's international players, given continued involvement in the five nations, and it would be more than most — if not all — clubs could offer. Equally there is no doubting the RFU's anxiety to fill Twickenham as frequently as possible, to help finance their varied commitments and to pay off the £34 million debt on the stadium.

Louis Luyt, president of the South African Rugby Football Union, is expected in London this week to talk with the RFU about regular fixtures. Luyt has already spoken to English club representatives about the potential for matches between South African provincial sides and the top club teams — ambitious Newcastle played three matches in South Africa last month — but it is internationals which are the draw card.

O'Donovan in control

Bath soon back in the groove despite rusty start

Orrell 13
Bath 56

By Christopher Irvine

A SCORELINE which flattered Bath and flattered Orrell was, nonetheless, welcomed by John Hall as a vindication of the way he wants Bath to perform this season. "We're in the entertainment business now," Hall, the club's director of rugby, said. Refunds to a disappointingly small house at Edge Hall Road might have been in order.

Hall's remark was more specifically directed at the part referees must play. "We're in a professional game now. In the southern hemisphere, you have professionals on the field and professionals refereeing," he said. "Many times the ball was clearly visible at the back of the ruck. What harm does it do to play advantage? People higher up are restricting the licence of referees to make it an exciting, entertaining game."

Until an uplifting final 20 minutes, Bath were rustier than the pea in Steven Piercy's whistle, but Hall, who has forsaken any referees' society dinner invitations by his comments, had a point. Laws meant to enhance the running game are only good if they are applied with an eye to the spectacle for which they are designed. Negligent pursuit of the rule book by officials can shut down open play as effectively as the players can.

Although the execution was not always right on Saturday, Bath want to accentuate the positive. Elimination of the negative was their problem, until Orrell's resistance was eventually worn down. The admirable Nicol scored Bath's only try in the first hour, an example of the new scrum-mage law acting like a Venus fly-trap. Orrell remained bound and helpless, and when Peters surged off the back, the jaws clamped.

Without reinforcements, Orrell's pack is in for a long



Hall: more entertainment

hard winter. Here, too, rugby league is seen as an answer. Their league recruits to a rather more impressive back line — Frano Botica, who never looked as if he had been away from union since 1990, Lyon, and Heslop — fitted in well. The shaven head of Hitchmough was not the only thing he had borrowed from Christian Cullen, the adventurous New Zealand full back.

Bath's advance league party, the redoubtable Richard Webster, had by far the most effective game on his return after three years. The former Wales and British Isles forward appeared more menacing than he ever looked for Salford. He hung out wide, league-style, in the role of battering ram that brought him a deserved try.

Webster's score, allied to the place kicking of Callard, who landed nine of his 11 attempts, began Bath's procession to victory. Goughgan, before limping off, Carr, who instigated a try by Horne with a wonderful cut-out pass before scoring himself, and Haag supplied further scores. In between, Tuigamala added an excellent touchdown for Orrell and Heslop another.

Unlike many who had stayed away, Hall did not venture down the road to Central Park afterwards to check on his other league recruits. It was a pity. He would have appreciated the entertainment. Wigan's advance to the Premiership final means that Henry Paul and Jason Robinson will not now be available until the home game in two weeks' time against Wasps.

SCORES: Orrell: Tries: Tugamala (2), Heslop (2), Webster (1), Callard (1), Piercy (1). Bath: Tries: Nicol (1), Webster (1), Piercy (1), Heslop (1), Callard (1), Goughgan (1), Haag (1), Carr (1), Horne (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 1,200.

RUGBY UNION: SEASON KICKS OFF WITH DEFEAT FOR LEICESTER BUT BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR CHAMPIONS



Lynagh follows intently the progress of an early kick at goal before a shirt-sleeved crowd of 6,000 inside Saracens' new home at Enfield. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Saracens lay foundations of power

Saracens 25
Leicester 23

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

COUNT the faintly patronising years in which Saracens have been praised for their organisation, their team spirit, their homely welcome and have struggled to survive among England's elite. Will this be the season when the patronisation ends and the game acknowledges the new power arising in North London?

Not if Saracens continue to lose away in five minutes all that they achieve in the previous 75, as they almost did in their new surroundings at Enfield on Saturday. However, Nigel Wray, their financial catalyst, was quick to emphasise that this was only a beginning. "We must not get carried away just because we have beaten Leicester," he said. "We have to create a better product all round."

Yet this was everything that Wray and his refurbished team could have wanted from the first competitive weekend of a new season: victory over the perennial league and cup

contenders, a polished contribution at half back by two newcomers integral to success, Michael Lynagh and Kyran Bracken, and a crowd of 6,000, twice as many as Saracens could accommodate at their old premises in Southgate.

"I'm a great believer in the good old-fashioned British compromise, the ability to muddle through," Wray said when invited to comment on the threatened breakaway from the Rugby Football Union by the leading clubs. Yet compromise is what his players must avoid like the plague; they must impose their will on opponents who are more experienced — like Leicester — in doing so. To lead 25-9 with four minutes of proper time remaining, and to risk defeat from a penalty five minutes later, is muddling through.

Judgment, of course, must be reserved on sides who are only beginning to knit together. On another day, the chances Saracens created — more than Leicester despite two late tries to one — will be taken; colleagues will understand better the attacking lines taken by Philippe Sella and the ethereal running of Richard Wallace but, above

all, they will appreciate Lynagh's organisation, which will bring the best from everyone.

Therein lay an essential difference: Leicester's midfield was a new one, too, but the promising Matt Jones is only beginning to find his feet. The longer the game went on, the better he played, which, given Leicester's outrageous inability to retain ball in the tackle, was significant. Jones, 23, has confidence which, allied to the creative qualities of Niall Malone,

Full results 39

may yet reward Bob Dwyer's faith in him. Yet he will take time to learn only half the things that to Lynagh, are automatic.

Saracens now have a competitive lineup. Rob Cunningham, their coach, describes Tony Cosey as the keystone of the pack and the former Wales lock played with all his old vigour. The outstanding personality in the pack, though, is Tony Diprose. Will this be the season he wins his first cap for he lost nothing in

comparison with Dean Richards, England's No 8 at the end of last season?

The new laws are made for a No 8 of Diprose's intelligence, good hands and speed over the ground. Moreover, he picks up so much loose ball, even when required to operate at the front, and these days, even as club captain, he can relax more because he no longer carries all the weight of expectation.

There remains a query over Saracens' set scrum for all that they managed to keep out Leicester during a sustained eight-minute spell of pressure in one corner that should have brought the Tigers points but earned them only a further black mark when they conceded the position through a penalty. Leicester's front row have an enviable reputation but, if they also acquire one for destructive or ill-disciplined play — as they are in danger of doing — they will do their club a disservice.

Dwyer, their coach, addressed them on the subject of discipline at half-time when they trailed by four penalties to one and, thereafter, Saracens were the team under the hammer. For the second time in six

days, however, Leicester opposed a club which, by accident or design, constantly infringed, yet whom they could not punish: against Agen last Monday, they finally picked up a penalty try but, though Saracens conceded two penalties and a free kick five metres from their own line, a greater reward did not come.

Yet no team should plan for penalty tries and quick release must be the way forward for Leicester, particularly with the speed of Healey on hand. Bracken was the try-scoring scrum half, though, and ironically it came from a rolling maul.

Underwood, were both the product of quick possession. Since Liley could not snatch the verdict with a 55-metre penalty, perhaps the lesson is already learnt.

SCORES: Saracens: Tries: Bracken, Cunningham. Leicester: Tries: Liley (2), Underwood (1). Saracens: Tries: Liley (2), Underwood (1). Leicester: Tries: Liley (2), Underwood (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 6,000.

Uptight players fluff their lines

London Irish 27
Bristol 28

By Gerald Davies

ON A neighbouring sward the familiar sounds of cricket rang out, the players only aware of the game itself, the simple pleasures. Much the same once could be said of rugby: harbingers of autumn, the first steady footfalls of the early game followed in due course by the rousing climaxes of club and country campaigns, a contented line of changeless, seamless anticipation. But who knows any more.

Strolling to Sunbury on Saturday was not to be enthused with the confident stride of yore. Looking forward to what is to come — and there is indeed much promise if only the arguments would stop — was to be encumbered with a strife and inconsistency of a game at war with itself. The touchline talk was only half-heartedly of rugby. The consuming passion was doused as the preoccupations were of the politics and the loyalty-wrenching disharmony. Where will it all end? Will rugby ever be the same? Well, for the moment, yes. On the evidence of this match, too much so.

There were half a dozen moves, mostly from the home team and invariably involving Woods, Henderson and, until he went off, O'Shea which raised the spirits. So much in between retreated into caution and the safety of the forwards' clutches. No great change, then.

Alan Davies, Bristol's new coach, believed the players were "uptight" after all the preparation and the time devoted to practice. They did not know quite what to expect.

created too few chances. There was no real cutting edge, apart from Tuieti. The occasional forward drive in the loose being their most prominent tactic.

Clive Woodward, his opposite number, could not believe what he saw. There was disappointment for him, not so much in Waters's late try that gave the visitors a six-point lead with only two minutes to go, or the missed place kicks.

"It was the way we played and kicked so much of the ball away that was frustrating. We gave them too much respect and did not play our intended game," he said. The "quiet chat" he hopes to have with his charges tonight is likely to be akin to that kind of belligerent headmaster might give his truant pupils. He might consider that they might have done more with the 21 penalties they were awarded against only seven given away. Davies might care to ponder those figures.

Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* accompanied the three penalties Humphreys kicked for the home team but not, for some curious reason, for Henderson's brilliant try which came after O'Shea had cut loose in his own half. With Bristol limited to Burke's two penalties, this was a comfortable half-time lead.

The Irish continued to dominate territorially but Bristol kept matching them for points. In the end, the try by Waters, converted by Burke, provided too big a gap for the home side to overcome, even though Woods scored towards the end. The final conversion attempt did not quite carry.

SCORES: London Irish: Tries: Woods (2), Henderson (1). Bristol: Tries: Waters (1), Burke (1), Woods (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 1,200.

Rudderless Sale lose their way

Sale 31
Wasps 33

By a Correspondent

THOSE who may suspect that even Sale — arguably the strongest of the three northern clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship first division — will struggle to survive at the top level this season, saw little to alter that impression on day one at Heywood Road on Saturday when they allowed Wasps to pip them at the post in a highly-entertaining contest.

While a whole host of new players were sprinkled through the West Hartlepool and Orrell ranks, Sale — who fielded only two — found to their cost that little had changed on the field either. It is one thing to charm and excite, a winning formula, they should know by now, requires more solid virtues.

That Wasps, who were outclassed for more than half the match, should have stolen the points was as much due to Sale's negligence as the Londoners' ability. Worse still, it was the same negligence that cost Sale a top-four place in the first division last season.

Admirable as Sale's attempts to woo their followers with fancy football may be, their prime consideration in a season which could end with four clubs being relegated should be survival.

Failure to win when they were 23-6 ahead after 34 minutes and 28-16 up after 54, was ludicrous. Having established a winning position, there was no real attempt at control or discipline. Instead they let their initial brilliance go to their heads and squandered possession.

Sale were mightily impressive for 55 minutes. Beim and David Rees were swift and elusive. Bazendall — a willing convert from centre to stand-off half — was full of tricks. Yet, the longer the match went on, the harder Sale found it to

Had John Mitchell, Sale's All-Black player-coach, who was denied his place by the lack of a work permit, been involved, it might have been different. Without him, Sale looked rudderless when the challenge came, and they lacked their opponents' stamina in the final quarter.

Why it took so long for Wasps to get out of bottom gear was unclear yet, when they did, there was an inevitability about the outcome. As Sale visibly tired, the Wasps forwards, especially Hadley, Dallaglio and White, took command. Though Stocks gave Sale hope with his third penalty four minutes from time, it was Gomersall who



Gomersall: two tries

nipped over in his pack's slipstream for the decisive try with seconds remaining.

Gareth Rees, who contributed 18 points and missed only one kick at goal — from an optimistic 60 metres — marked his return from Canada with the winning points. For Sale, it was a cruel end but one to which they themselves contributed.

SCORES: Sale: Tries: Beim (2), O'Grady (2), Rees (1). Wasps: Tries: Gomersall (2), Sampson (1), Conners (1), Rees (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 1,200.

Harlequins enjoy dawn of new era

Harlequins 75
Gloucester 19

By Alison Kerrvin

THE very essence of the new professional era, with all its inherent complications, twists, turns and traumas, was illustrated nowhere more dramatically than at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday. The signs were everywhere, from the Harlequins team sheet, loaded with international talent, to the increased tickets and beer prices.

Then there was the tale of Daren O'Leary, the Harlequins wing, one of the few uncapped players the team put on show, scored four tries, then flew off in a helicopter to attend his sister's wedding. Last season, he might have been excused playing at all to be at so important a function, but now things are radically different.

As his helicopter wound a difficult course through the hot air balloons floating proudly above the half-ramped stadium, Gloucester were nursing their wounds after enduring their biggest defeat by an English side in the 105-year history of the club. They could delight in none of the extravagances enjoyed by Harlequins. Not for them the chartering of helicopters.

Professionalism's heavy pendulum has struck teams like Gloucester on its backswing, sending managements into a whirlwind of complicated selection policies to cope with the demands of the season. The upshot on Saturday was that Gloucester, in their first Courage Clubs Championship first division fixture of the season, pitted what amounted to little more than a second team against Harlequins' all-stars.

"Most of the key players were in the dug-out with me," Richard Hill, the director of coaching, said. "I have to

in division one. That means playing first-team players for targeted matches only."

The result was that the game, at times, was more like a benefit than a league game, with international rugby's finest, running circles around a second-rate West Country touring side.

A resurgent Will Carling inflicted the initial damage with a first-minute penalty. With his partner in the centre, Peter Mensah, he made excellent use of quality possession from a pack fortified by Keith Wood, Laurent Benézech, Gareth Llewellyn and Laurent Cabannes. After five minutes, Harlequins had two tries under their belt — the first a penalty try, the second from the immense Mensah.

By half-time, the score was 46-12. Gloucester having retained through tries by Osborne and Lloyd, Charlie Mulrairie, a scrum half and the most noteworthy of the visiting players, scored the third of Gloucester's tries himself.

For Harlequins, both French signings, Benézech and Cabannes, made the scoresheet, as did Snow, Staples and Bromley, and Carling finished the day with 20 kicking points to his credit, furthering speculation about his intended role as a future England stand-off half.

"Carling has done all his pre-season training at stand-off half, then he just slotted back into the centre at the beginning of the week," Andy Keast, the Harlequins director of coaching, said. To great effect, obviously. A fascinating season beckons.

SCORES: Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary (4), Mensah (2), Snow (1), Benézech (1), Cabannes (1), Carling (1). Gloucester: Tries: Osborne (2), Lloyd (1), Mulrairie (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 1,200.

West's fresh faces meet their match in stirring pipe-opener

Northampton 46
West Hartlepool 20

By Bryan Stiles

IF THIS is the kind of exhilarating fare spectators can expect from the new professional era then play on, give me excess of it, to paraphrase the Bard. The willingness by both teams to run the ball as a form of attack and defence lifted the spirits and even made onlookers forget the higher prices they paid at the gate.

Teams know that, as well as striving for success, they must attempt to entertain their followers, who happily take up every opportunity to jeer and cat-call when players fall below accepted professional standards.

Not that there was much to criticise in this opening match in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship on Saturday. There were the inevitable first-game mistakes, but these did not mar the heart-warming endeavour from both sides.

Northampton spent last season putting the teams in the second division to the sword and, having achieved promotion with an unblemished record, were hell-bent on venting their blood-lust on West Hartlepool, who have been identified as one of the first division's potential strugglers by most critics in their seasonal previews.

It was both teams' first taste, at least in a competitive match, of the new laws, one of which requires all members of the scrum to remain bound until the scrum is complete. This prevents back-row forwards detaching themselves and trundling off to clog up midfield like huge immovable doorstops, thereby reducing the passageways of attack and smothering moves before they have the chance to become menacing.

It certainly opened up the midfield, with Northampton being the more adept at exploiting the opportunities it offered, particularly in the



Rodger: commendable

first half. They did everything at pace before the interval and were rewarded with a 25-3 scoreline. They slowed the tempo in the second half and West Hartlepool took advantage to rattle up another 17 points. However, Northampton had enough venom left in their sting to run in three more converted tries.

Ian McGeechan, who is director of rugby at Northampton, and who will coach the British Isles team for South Africa next year, was delighted with his team's performance, particularly in the first half, but he knows that bigger and more skilful packs lie in wait. In the absence through injury of Martin Bayfield, there is little authority in the second row and they had to rely on the commendable efforts of Tim Rodger to secure lineout ball.

Kevin Moseley was one of six Welsh imports on show for West and he won plenty of lineout ball, achieving a success rate that should serve his team well as they settle into the season. It was significant that all West's second-half points came when Mark King, their director of rugby, came on as a substitute. He is far too talented to be on the bench.

In the first half, tries for Northampton, by Moir and Bell, a penalty try and some accurate kicking by Grayson were answered by a penalty goal from Chris John. West's second-half fightback brought them tries by Steven John, Ions and Stabler, with Grayson replying by converting tries from Dawson, Bell and Beal.

SCORES: Northampton: Tries: Bell (2), Moir (1), Beal (1), Grayson (1). West Hartlepool: Tries: John (2), Ions (1), Stabler (1), Dawson (1). Referee: J. Jones. Weather: Partly cloudy. Attendance: 1,200.

Johnson points Dolphins towards Super Bowl

A group of titans stands on the practice pitch in the sweltering heat, hands on hips, breathing heavily, like latter-day gladiators in body armour and turquoise blue uniforms. From their midst, a smaller man strides towards the clutch of cameras waiting behind the goalposts and climbs on to a small wooden stand so he can address them.

The next day, his picture appears on the front page of a Florida newspaper. He is wearing a suit and clutching an American football. An artist has made it look as though he is standing in the Oval Office at the White House. Underneath this scene, a headline dominates the page. "The People's Choice," it says.

Then, as all Miami sweats under the burning sun and the Labor Day weekend holiday gets into full swing, the fervour really takes hold. Light planes fly along the coast to Fort Lauderdale trailing streamers screaming "Go Dolphins" and at hotel pool parties disc jockeys play medleys of inspirational records and call them "The Jimmy Jam". Jimmy Johnson is back and everybody knows it.

The man who transformed the

Dallas Cowboys from the worst team in the National Football League (NFL) into successive Super Bowl winners four years ago took charge of his first game as coach of the Miami Dolphins against the New England Patriots last night as the American football season began. They label him the coach who replaces legends here, but Johnson has become a legend in his own right.

He has been out of the game for two years since his acrimonious split with the Cowboys' owner, Jerry Jones, but his profile has not dropped. His girlfriend, Rhonda Rookmaaker, gets more newspaper column inches than Miami's other famous female residents, Madonna and Cher, and his hairstyle is still a topic for debate. He says the job at the Dolphins is his "return ticket" to the Super Bowl.

His reputation is such that the team's uncomfortable parting with Don Shula, the man who coached the Dolphins for 25 years and led them to the only unbeaten season in the history of the sport in 1972, went almost unnoticed. The Dolphins, after all, have not even

Oliver Holt finds Miami eagerly awaiting the start of the new American football season

reached a Super Bowl for 12 years and, now Johnson has arrived, all of south Florida is expecting a glut of success.

The circumstances, though, are not quite what they were when he took over in Dallas in 1989. He inherited a parlous group of players from the Texas icon, Tom Landry, and won only one of 16 games in his first season. It took him two more hard years of giving the club a total transfusion of talent, of turning the thing around, the title of his new book, before the Cowboys became a real force.

The Dolphins, on the other hand, spent millions on the recruitment of new players at the beginning of last season to try to send Shula into retirement with another Super Bowl triumph. The new additions did not perform to expectations and Miami made an ignominious early exit from the play-offs — but, under NFL salary cap regulations, the wages they

paid the new players means Johnson cannot, for the moment, bring in star players of his own.

Instead, he will earn the \$2 million a year, making him the highest-paid coach in the sport, by exercising his famous motivational powers, indulging a temper that has seen him throw trash cans through blackboards after a defeat and instilling discipline into a team that had gained a name for being ill-prepared. He has already introduced fines of \$1250 for missing a weightlifting session and made it clear that his word is the law.

"I would see very few scenarios where challenging authority would be beneficial other than to help the person in the authority role," Johnson said. "Open confrontation would be a disaster. At times, the players have to have blind loyalty. I expect that."

Despite Johnson's intense presence, though, it is unlikely that the Dolphins will reach the Super



Johnson: inspirational

Bowl this year. Many of his squad are rookies and there is still a residue of the under-achievers recruited by Shula. Just as in Dallas, it may take several years before success floods in.

Last season's Super Bowl winners, the Cowboys, are among the favourites to triumph again this year and so become the first team

to claim the sport's top prize six times. Yet they have been so badly affected by off-the-field controversies that most experts are tipping the Green Bay Packers to win the trophy this year.

The most serious blow to the Cowboys — whose nickname, America's Team, has now become an ironic reflection of the ills of the country — came when Michael Irvin, their star wide receiver, became embroiled in a scandal involving tales of wild sexual escapades, drug use and a murder-for-hire plot. He eventually pleaded no contest to a charge of cocaine possession in court and was suspended by the NFL for five games, one third of the season.

His punishment made him the fifth member of last year's all-conquering Cowboys team who has either served, or is facing, suspension for drug-related misdemeanours. Some of the players, predictably, blame the media for their travails but the credentials of those who complain the loudest do not bear too close an examination.

"You've made us drunks and jerks," Nate Newton, a guard, said

— forgetting, presumably, his own place on the roll of honour with an arrest for driving while intoxicated. "Everyone disrespects us and tries to harass us."

That number includes Johnson, too. The Miami eatery he owns too, The Miami Eatery, has now become an ironic reflection of the ills of the country — came when Michael Irvin, their star wide receiver, became embroiled in a scandal involving tales of wild sexual escapades, drug use and a murder-for-hire plot. He eventually pleaded no contest to a charge of cocaine possession in court and was suspended by the NFL for five games, one third of the season.

It also includes much of the media and the public, who are finding it hard to stomach the excesses of the Cowboys at a time when fanatical Cleveland Browns fans have lost their team to Baltimore, where they have been given the suffix Ravens. Last week's cover of *Inside Sports* magazine placed a picture of Jones rubbing his hands in glee next to a disconsolate member of the Cleveland Dawg Pound wearing a basset hound mask. "Rich man, poor fan," the headline said.

Pocket-sized Quarry gains his reward for hours of practice

By John Goodbody

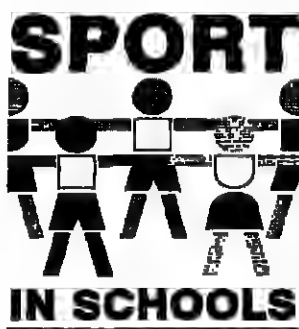
THERE can be few more enchanting settings for a school's championship than the golf course at Stowe. The neoclassical house and grounds were described as long ago as 1777 as "one of the chief ornaments to the English nation" and age has added to their distinction. The course winds itself beside the lake and round rotundas with the steeping colonnades of the house overlooking the first and last holes.

It is a place to inspire anyone and it certainly inspired William Quarry, who on Friday produced a masterly second nine holes to win the thirtieth national prep schools' championship for the Stowe Putter.

So slight that he could almost fit into your pocket, Quarry still generated sufficient power with his driving to match his closest rivals while his technical precision was notable around the greens. On the last hole, Quarry, from Crofton, in Scotland, sank a 14-foot putt to take the overall title and the plus 13-year-olds category.

His points total of 58 was a record for a competition won previously by Malcolm Lewis, the former England amateur player, and two Walker Cup representatives, Charlie Eyles and Jeremy Robinson.

All 108 boys from 52 schools, who are selected on their



handicap, played two rounds of the nine-hole course, using the Stablesford scoring system. Quarry's total was three points more than the record, set last year by Mark Alexander, of University College School, London, who was back to defend his title.

Alexander began playing with plastic clubs at the age of three. By six, he had earned a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* for being the youngest person to have a hole-in-one on a full-sized course (the feat was broken last year). He was clearly favourite this year. However, like Colin Montgomerie, to whom he has an uncanny facial resemblance, Alexander has had some frustrations this year.

On both rounds, he hooked his opening tee shot into the trees and never looked like matching his 1995 performance, eventually finishing equal fifth.

Alexander played in the afternoon with Quarry, who

was second behind Michael Oliver after the morning's first nine holes. Quarry, who began playing the game with his grandmother at the age of six and is about to go to Glenalmond, first attracted attention in this tournament when, at the age of ten, he played 54 holes on the practice day and was still hitting balls in the dark.

On Friday, all his practice was rewarded when he began a charge over the last few holes, birdieing the 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th. Apart from pitching short at the 7th, it was a flawless round.

The winner of the 12 to 13-year-old category and second in the overall championship was Oliver, from St Edmund's School, who has twice been junior champion for Slingsbourne Golf Club in Kent. His mother, Annette, says of his devotion to the game: "If we allowed him he would play in ten feet of snow and with a miner's helmet to light the greens. This sport is a learning process. It teaches people to come to terms with bad shots."

It is a theme taken up by Chris Atkinson, the tournament organiser. "Golf teaches self-confidence and self-reliance," he said. "This is very much in the mode in education nowadays. When you have an off-day in team sports there are others who can rally round to cover up for you. In golf you are on your own."



Stowe golf course provided an idyllic setting for the 108 boys from 52 schools who competed in the thirtieth national prep schools' championship

RESULTS: Overall Championship: 1. William Quarry (Crofton) 58; 2. Michael Oliver (St Edmund's) 55; 3. Glen Donnelly (Barnard) 50; 4. Laura Briggs (Pachwood House) 48; 5. Mark Alexander (University College) and Charles Gordon (Lodgegrove) 47; 7. Greg Blaney (Heim Mount) 46; 8. Richard Henson (Heim Mount) 45; 9. Louis Eggar (Horn Hill); 10. Paul Williams (Snider) (Horn Hill); 11. Charles Sutton (Eggar) (Horn Hill) and Henry Watson (Wellesley House) 44.

SCHOOLS COMPETITION: 1. Heath Mount 91; 2. Horn Hill 87; 3. Eggarley Hall 87.

12-13 YEAR-OLDS: 1. Michael Oliver (St Edmund's) 52; 2. Sam Mason (Chigwell) 43; 3. Jamie Donnan (Orley Farm) 43.

UNDER-12s: 1. Peter Dunbar (Orley Farm) 38; 2. Tom Yelkowsky (Chigwell) 35; 3. Michael Pickett (St John's) and Graham Arge (Standale) 34.

SPORTS LETTERS

Cricket must look to its future

From Mr Anthony Benn

Sir, Where does English cricket go now after the Test series defeat by Pakistan? In the past there would have been calls for the captain's head, but there is no one obvious to succeed the uninspiring Atherton. Endless variations in the role and structure of the management of the international side have come to nothing, and the Afield report will make little difference. Cricket has failed to produce a character of substance to impose himself on the machinery at Lord's and on the requirements of the modern game. Why has the game been so afraid to allow selectors and coaches to act as one, as in football or rugby?

The Headingley Test was sparsely attended and when I was at Lord's on the fourth day, it too was only a third full — on a warm Sunday in July with one of the most exciting teams of the day to watch. Test cricket is the principal money-earner of the game; if the revenue from this falls, so does county incomes.

The counties should take note of the success of the rugby league Super League, and how long will it be before rugby union, already extending into May, takes the hint and before football opts for a winter break. How will the public choose to spend its money on Sunday afternoons then? Not watching dull, uncompetitive and uninspired England endlessly collapsing once the first wicket is down.

I have some pity for Michael Atherton and the England management: they are not supplied with players equal to the best from around the world. I don't believe that winning is everything; talent supported by enjoyment and by self-belief, by a capacity for

risk-taking and by captaincy that knows the meaning of inspiration, these are some of the things I want to watch. But counties must supply the players, and it is their failure, out of self-interest and fear of defeat, to produce fast bowlers who are genuinely fast and not seamers, and spinners who are genuine spinners of the ball and do not merely rely on variation of flight and pace.

As a coach, I can still enthuse 14-year-old boys, but I wonder for how long. Laminated bats and plastic pads have seen the demise of linseed and whitening, but when I am retired in 15 or so years' time — and those in charge of cricket must think in this time-span, though not solely for my sake — I hope there will still be cricket to watch.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY BENN,
Bloxbam School,
Bloxbam,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Christopher Taylor

Sir, The decline in penetrative bowling in England is blamed on one-day matches, in which the prime aim is to keep the opponents' score down — because the matches are decided on runs scored. If they were decided on wickets taken (with the number of runs being considered only if wickets were equal) the bowlers' approach might be different.

Why not try this change in one of the expendable one-day competitions (say, the Benson and Hedges)? Even if the change encouraged defensive batting as well as attacking bowling, England's Test prospects would be improved.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,
5 Park Crescent,
Cuddington,
Northwich, Cheshire.

Moneyed era ruining rugby

From Mr Sean Enright

Sir, The threatened destruction of the five nations' championship owes as much to the incompetence of the Rugby Football Union as it does to the driving force of the game: money.

We are told constantly that the professional era is inevitable, but professionalism is destroying the game, particularly at junior and school levels. In a naked attempt to make the game more appealing to the media the RFU has colluded in numerous law changes designed to speed the game up.

Nobody consults the players, of course. I declare an interest: I am reaching a stage in my career when I would welcome the odd break in the action. There is nothing as refreshing as a slowly moving maul. Sometimes, there is nothing quite as moving as the sight of the only match ball wedged firmly in the trees.

Rugby is a violent and dangerous sport and, by definition, almost impossible to referee. It only survives because the players, by and large, recognise that the rules of the game are more important than winning. Professionalism threatens this ethos.

Professionalism also threatens the entire fabric of junior and school rugby. Junior clubs have no money and many talented players are being lost to professional clubs. Small clubs are growing smaller but their overheads continue to grow. Many clubs are threatened with extinction.

Sporting heroes

From Mr Michael Shepherd

Sir, I am sure that many thousands of people will join me in paying tribute to the Paralympics, both to those who organised it and those who took part so inspiringly.

To see thousands of competitors who were not only working against their handicaps, but working towards health rather than fame, and who combined intense competitiveness with a genuine affection for their fellow competitors, this was to feel the true Olympic spirit born again, beyond cynicism, ego and exploitation.

To take one instance alone: the wheelchair basketball

Rugby offers a role to every schoolboy: the short fast ones, tall thin ones, the quick and the not quite so quick. There is a role for the brave and those who are not quite so brave. All that is changing: new coaches are looking for young men who are uniformly tall, broad and fast. Even at junior level, players are noticeably bigger, tackle are going in harder and faster. There is a continuing emphasis on knocking your opponent back across the gain-line. The risk of serious injuries and long-term physiological damage is growing. Ask any chiropractor or sports physio.

It is time to stop and reflect on the damage being done to the game.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN ENRIGHT,
42 Albany Park Road,
Kingston on Thames, Surrey.

From Mr Dudley Williams

Sir, English rugby is in a mess, not least in its dealings with the other unions.

If the share of the kitty from television rights must be divided on an inequitable basis, why can it not be done on merit with, say, the championship winners taking 35 per cent, second 25 per cent, third 30 per cent, and fourth and fifth 10 per cent each?

England would surely not object to this solution and it would give the others an incentive to improve standards.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY WILLIAMS,
3 Oakridge Acres,
Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

competition is a breathtaking, even humbling, spectator sport, more thrilling for me than those languid, loose-limbed, leaping millionaires of the "proper" Olympic Games.

These handicapped competitors (whose handicaps we viewers would have liked to know rather more about) are the true sporting heroes of our time and deserve more attention.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL SHEPHERD,
56 Elborough Street, SW18.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

FISHING: SPATE OF ELECTROCUTIONS DEMONSTRATES DANGER OF POLES

Simple rules to avoid tragedy

The death of the third angler in three weeks by electrocution has reinforced one of the growing dangers in the modern sport. It has also focused attention on a single, dramatic change in the kinds of tackle which anglers now use.

A week ago a fly-fisherman was killed when lightning struck his rod on the banks of Rutland Water, in Leicestershire. A couple of weeks before that, an angler fishing a lake in Suffolk was killed in a similar way. Between the two, a boy of 13 was killed when his rod touched an overhead power cable above a Northamptonshire pond.

Figures for the number of anglers killed by lightning — unlike drowning — are not separately kept. However, it is known that at least a dozen anglers have died through rod contact with power cables in recent years and that many more have been seriously injured.

The problem is the development and widespread introduction of a new rod-making material. For centuries, anglers used rods made of wood. There was a brief flirtation with glass. Now, virtually every rod in every style of fishing is made of carbon fibre. This wondrous material is light, strong, flexible and capable of being built to taper that will produce any form of action a manufacturer might require.

It is also a potent conductor of electricity. Rods do not have to be long to attract lightning and nor does a storm have to be raging for danger to arise. In the kind of changeable weather we have had of late, with sudden, heavy showers alternating with periods of warm sun, tragedy can strike

Lightning and power cables have caused three recent deaths. Brian Clarke reports

quite literally out of the blue. The angler at Rutland had not fished foolishly on in obviously bad weather — he had no warning. His carbon rod was hit by the first flash from a heavy, gathering cloud.

A couple of years ago, a friend of mine dropped his rod in a wide, flat meadow when a storm was approaching and raced for his car before the advancing rain. Before he had gone 30 yards, there was a flash and a bang behind him. Lightning had struck his carbon rod, even though it had been lying flat on the ground.

The most dangerous rods by far are the immense weapons that many modern coarse fishers use. Carbon-fibre poles are now de rigueur on many slow and still waters and they dominate much of the competitive fishing scene.

Fishing with a pole is very different to fishing with a conventional rod. Rods are generally short and line distance is achieved by casting with a reel. Poles have no reels. The line is attached to the end of a fine tip section several feet long and further sections can be pushed into that. Distance is thus achieved by varying the number of sections added. The great advantage is that delivery of the bait is not as hit and miss as it can be in rod-and-reel fishing. The bait can be lowered with perfect precision on to fish as they move into the bank and away from it.

Pole fishing has no part in salmon or trout fishing, or in angling for larger coarse fish. However, most anglers on heavily-fished rivers, canals

and lakes have access mainly to small fish and millions now use them.

Extraordinary lengths are now being reached. A typical short pole will extend to 25 feet or so. Others have been designed to 30, 40 and even 50 feet. Not only are they expensive — prices run to over £5,000 — but they dramatically increase the dangers for those who use them.

Long poles are more likely to be hit by lightning because of their sheer size and are capable of reaching many power lines if held high in moments of distraction. They can even cause power to arc between cables and pole-tips, so that danger can strike an angler whose pole appears to be safely in the clear.

The dangers have been known for some time and many manufacturers now put warning stickers on their long-



The sheer length of poles increases the risk to anglers

er products. Even so, tragedies continue to occur, either because anglers choose to ignore the guidance, or because they forget it.

Until a safer rod material comes along — an unlikely prospect — or power cables are buried, anglers must observe a few common-sense rules. The first is: do not fish with a carbon rod or pole during a thunderstorm. Indeed, no sensible angler will fish during a storm with any kind of rod, even one made from glass or split cane. The wise will put down their rods and leave them if strong clouds are near, even though no lightning might have been seen.

A second essential is that no one should fish directly under power lines, no matter how high above the ground they might be or how low-powered they might seem. Organisers of fishing competitions should site no pegs under or close to power lines, even though space might be tight and cables might run through the finest swims on a chosen match length. If it is necessary to walk under power lines, conventional rods should be held low and poles should be dismantled.

Every angler will understand how difficult it is to remember such things or to exercise such self-discipline, especially if coarse fish are feeding or trout are rising. He knows that 999 times out of a thousand, no problems will arise, even if all caution is cast aside. But once in a while, for someone, somewhere, a problem will arise and have tragic results — as recent events have made clear.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

سكربتات

RACING: CECIL-TRAINED OAKS WINNER UNLIKELY TO MAKE ST LEGER LINE-UP

Lady Carla losing fitness race

By Robert Wright

HENRY CECIL conceded yesterday that he is running out of time to produce Lady Carla for the Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday week. He described the Oaks winner as "very doubtful" for the final classic.

Lady Carla has not run since finishing a disappointing fourth to Dance Design in the Irish Oaks at the Curragh on July 14. Since then she has been suffering from a back problem, and was forced to miss a planned reappearance at York last month.

"She's much better now but she's going to have an examination tomorrow and we'll take things from there," Cecil said. "But I have to say that she's very doubtful for the St Leger."

Lady Carla has missed two weeks of serious work and

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: RACING BRENDA (3.15 Hamilton Park)
Next best: Tolem Dancer (4.45 Hamilton Park)

although she has been swimming over the last few days is still unlikely to be 100 per cent for Doncaster. Cecil stressed that it is still hoped to run her later in the season and that she is likely to stay in training for a four-year-old campaign.

Cecil still has a strong hand in the St Leger with the favourite, Dushyantor, and Flying Legend.

Derby runner-up Dushyantor, who won the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York last month, has been confirmed an intended runner. But Flying Legend, an impressive Newmarket handicap winner on his latest outing, has still to get the go-ahead for the big race.

Bransford Abby, who has eight listed race victories to her name, will continue her quest for an elusive group race victory when she tackles the Haydock Park Sprint Cup on Saturday. The Mark Johnston-trained seven-year-old has already made history this season by equalling Laurel



Lady Carla, winner of the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom in June, is unlikely to make the Pertemps St Leger field

Queen's record of 22 career wins by a mare.

The group one contest at Haydock over six furlongs may be slightly weaker than usual, with the July Cup winner, Anabaa, and Nunthorpe Stakes victor, Pivotal, both absent.

"The intention is to run Bransford Abby at Haydock and we're just hoping that the ground stays soft," said Juliana Abell, who owns the mare in partnership with husband, David.

"She is good enough to win a group race so why not make it a group one? Nobody would argue that it isn't deserved. It would be great to get it as she is likely to be retired at the end of this season."

Bransford Abby ran one of the best races of her career when finishing second to Cherokee Rose in the corresponding Haydock race last year. She had leading sprinters Owington, Lake Coniston and Mind Games behind her on that occasion.

However, she ran inexplicably badly in the City of York Stakes last month, finishing last of the eight runners. "She usually runs well at York and that simply wasn't her true form. But she's very well in herself now," Mrs Abell said.

Trainer Mark Prescott confirmed yesterday that Pivotal would not be travelling to Haydock. The colt collected Eveningperformance in the final stride of the group one Nunthorpe Stakes over five furlongs at York, but had

previously disappointed when favourite for the July Cup over six furlongs.

Prescott did not want to elaborate on alternative plans for Pivotal, although the five-furlong Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp on October 6 has already been mentioned as a likely target.

Despite Pivotal's absence, there is still plenty of interest in the Haydock race with the entries including Blue Duster, Hever Golf Rose, Royal Applause and Lucayan Prince.

Saturated fixture list keeps dissenters in full voice

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing
Commentary

An encircling but exasperating trait within racing is the acute desire for anyone remotely connected with the sport to make themselves heard. Racing has media outlets to burn; whether you are the champion jockey or just plain disgruntled from Tunbridge Wells, the odds are that your views will find a platform for their expression.

In this respect, John McCricker, the Channel 4 Racing pundit, is very much the fairy atop the Christmas tree. McCricker is Tinker Bell, the undisputed purveyor of opinion who generally makes good use of the opportunities. However, anyone dropping in on the racing press for a day would surely recoil at the apparent anarchy within its ranks.

If the letters pages are to be believed, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) is as effective as a West End farce; there is no racetrack in the country with consistent ground; the facilities for racegoers are a disgrace; racehorse owners represent the height of avarice by their desire not to plough money into a bottomless pit and the judgment of Henry Cecil, nine-times champion trainer, is worse than an eccentric High Court practitioner on a bad day.

The case of Cecil is perhaps a best example. A recent letter, published in the trade press, admonished the trainer for ignoring Tony McGlone for the vacancy of stable jockey. Cecil preferred the up-and-coming Kieren Fallon, and the McGlone supporter, positively spitting with rage, took Cecil to task in no uncertain terms. This is akin to an anonymous golfing enthusiast having a platform to berate Nick Faldo over his choice of caddy. It simply would not happen.

A supreme verbal contortionist would struggle to satisfactorily respond to every complaint lodged against the BHB. That may explain why two former politicians, Lord Wakeham and Brian Walden, were left to fight out the nomination for the BHB's chair. But one complaint, forwarded from a number of different sources, has been voiced so often in recent months that the BHB cannot realistically ignore it for much longer.

They are saying it the length and breadth of the country: there is just too much racing. It is not possible to enjoy a visit to the local bookmaker for the barrage of opportunities to bet, each allocated a promotional slot between commentaries from here, there and everywhere.

The BHB's response to a bulging fixture list is to dismiss the complaint by citing the various parties whose needs must be satisfied. For a start, the vast majority of fixtures are allocated according to the requirements of off-course bookmakers. Then they must consider the needs of racecourses, who, quite naturally, want to race on weekends, Bank Holidays and in the evenings, when racegoers are free to attend. This, argues the BHB, is why the fixture list continues to grow.

No one denies the logic behind the BHB's argument. No one can argue that the BHB is handing out fixtures without due consideration. No one questions the BHB's desire to please as many entities as it can. But there comes a point where logic is usurped by the end-product. If the general feeling is that there is too much racing, one cannot defend the position by explaining why. As the Tories did with their Poll Tax proposals, it is more prudent to accept that the argument, although sound in logic, is simply not working.

Of course, the great majority of fixtures are allocated in accordance with bookmaker-inspired criteria which has the general endorsement of the BHB. The criteria are almost exclusively governed by stimulating betting turnover, which is so crucial to both organisations. Again, one cannot question the logic, but the feeling in many quarters is that we may have reached saturation.

Horserace betting turnover is under pressure, not just from the lottery but slot machines, betting on Irish lottery numbers and other sports. Its share of overall betting turnover will almost certainly decline. The worst thing to do with a product declining in popularity is to offer more of it.

In the medium and longer term, racing may derive greater benefit from a more balanced programme to put before the public.

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HEXHAM

THUNDERER
2.00 Kemof. 2.30 Classic Crest. 3.00 Nocatohim.
3.30 Trade Wind. 4.00 Wise Advice. 4.30 Durdal.

GOING: FIRM SIS

2.00 BUCHANAN ORIGINAL JUVENILE NOVICES
HURDLE (22.32m) (3 runners)

1 KENNER 30 (P) M Hammond 11-3
2 REVAL RAPTOR 10 (J) Shaw 10-10
3 MISS IMPULSE 18 (P) M Jones 10-8
4-6 Nosed, 5-4 Noyl Report, 10-1 Miss Impulse

2.30 THELMA, MARJORIE, LYNDIA AND JOYCE
NOVICES HURDLE (22.32m) (4 runners)

1 GLASSIE DRESS 70 (P) R Shaw 5-11-10
2 YOUNG STEVEN 108 (P) M Jones 5-11-10
3 WHATEVER SECRET 4 (P) M Jones 4-11-10
4-6 Nosed, 5-4 Noyl Report, 10-1 Miss Impulse

3.00 LCL PILLS LAGER SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
(22.12m) (4 runners)

1 HODGKINSON 20 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
2 ANTHONY BELL 321 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
3 LAURENCE 20 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
4-6 Nosed, 5-4 Noyl Report, 10-1 Miss Impulse

3.30 KEOGHAN'S ALE HANDICAP HURDLE
(22.12m) (6 runners)

1 440 SHARP SENSATION 10 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
2 121 TRADE WIND 20 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
3 9-54 WOODSMITH 18 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
4 840 HOLMEY GRI 122 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
5 20 THUNDERER 20 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
6 600 STAGE FELL 10 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10

4.00 JOHN HOGG HAULAGE HANDICAP CHASE
(22.12m) (4 runners)

1 640 WISE ADVICE 11 (P) M Hammond 5-11-10
2 3P-C STAGS FORT 4 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
3 0373 GEORGE ASHFORD 7 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
4 494 MISS DORCAS 4 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10

4.30 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE
NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.23m) (10 runners)

1 DURAND 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
2 HENRIETTA 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
3 TEDDY EDWARD 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
4 KOMASMI 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
5 NASHMORE 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
6 POWERFUL SPIRIT 12 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
7 SUE WILKINSON 10 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
8 MISS WITTEN 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
9 AMBER EMBLE 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10
10 ROLLING STONE 142 (P) D J Shaw 5-11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J D Shaw, 8 winners from 14 runners, 57.1% 1 Carr, 4 from 17, 23.5% 5 Elton, 4 from 20, 20.0% 6, 5 from 16, 31.2% 7, 14.3% 8, 14.3% 9, 14.3% 10, 14.3% 11, 14.3% 12, 14.3% 13, 14.3% 14, 14.3% 15, 14.3% 16, 14.3% 17, 14.3% 18, 14.3% 19, 14.3% 20, 14.3% 21, 14.3% 22, 14.3% 23, 14.3% 24, 14.3% 25, 14.3% 26, 14.3% 27, 14.3% 28, 14.3% 29, 14.3% 30, 14.3% 31, 14.3% 32, 14.3% 33, 14.3% 34, 14.3% 35, 14.3% 36, 14.3% 37, 14.3% 38, 14.3% 39, 14.3% 40, 14.3% 41, 14.3% 42, 14.3% 43, 14.3% 44, 14.3% 45, 14.3% 46, 14.3% 47, 14.3% 48, 14.3% 49, 14.3% 50, 14.3% 51, 14.3% 52, 14.3% 53, 14.3% 54, 14.3% 55, 14.3% 56, 14.3% 57, 14.3% 58, 14.3% 59, 14.3% 60, 14.3% 61, 14.3% 62, 14.3% 63, 14.3% 64, 14.3% 65, 14.3% 66, 14.3% 67, 14.3% 68, 14.3% 69, 14.3% 70, 14.3% 71, 14.3% 72, 14.3% 73, 14.3% 74, 14.3% 75, 14.3% 76, 14.3% 77, 14.3% 78, 14.3% 79, 14.3% 80, 14.3% 81, 14.3% 82, 14.3% 83, 14.3% 84, 14.3% 85, 14.3% 86, 14.3% 87, 14.3% 88, 14.3% 89, 14.3% 90, 14.3% 91, 14.3% 92, 14.3% 93, 14.3% 94, 14.3% 95, 14.3% 96, 14.3% 97, 14.3% 98, 14.3% 99, 14.3% 100, 14.3% 101, 14.3% 102, 14.3% 103, 14.3% 104, 14.3% 105, 14.3% 106, 14.3% 107, 14.3% 108, 14.3% 109, 14.3% 110, 14.3% 111, 14.3% 112, 14.3% 113, 14.3% 114, 14.3% 115, 14.3% 116, 14.3% 117, 14.3% 118, 14.3% 119, 14.3% 120, 14.3% 121, 14.3% 122, 14.3% 123, 14.3% 124, 14.3% 125, 14.3% 126, 14.3% 127, 14.3% 128, 14.3% 129, 14.3% 130, 14.3% 131, 14.3% 132, 14.3% 133, 14.3% 134, 14.3% 135, 14.3% 136, 14.3% 137, 14.3% 138, 14.3% 139, 14.3% 140, 14.3% 141, 14.3% 142, 14.3% 143, 14.3% 144, 14.3% 145, 14.3% 146, 14.3% 147, 14.3% 148, 14.3% 149, 14.3% 150, 14.3% 151, 14.3% 152, 14.3% 153, 14.3% 154, 14.3% 155, 14.3% 156, 14.3% 157, 14.3% 158, 14.3% 159, 14.3% 160, 14.3% 161, 14.3% 162, 14.3% 163, 14.3% 164, 14.3% 165, 14.3% 166, 14.3% 167, 14.3% 168, 14.3% 169, 14.3% 170, 14.3% 171, 14.3% 172, 14.3% 173, 14.3% 174, 14.3% 175, 14.3% 176, 14.3% 177, 14.3% 178, 14.3% 179, 14.3% 180, 14.3% 181, 14.3% 182, 14.3% 183, 14.3% 184, 14.3% 185, 14.3% 186, 14.3% 187, 14.3% 188, 14.3% 189, 14.3% 190, 14.3% 191, 14.3% 192, 14.3% 193, 14.3% 194, 14.3% 195, 14.3% 196, 14.3% 197, 14.3% 198, 14.3% 199, 14.3% 200, 14.3% 201, 14.3% 202, 14.3% 203, 14.3% 204, 14.3% 205, 14.3% 206, 14.3% 207, 14.3% 208, 14.3% 209, 14.3% 210, 14.3% 211, 14.3% 212, 14.3% 213, 14.3% 214, 14.3% 215, 14.3% 216, 14.3% 217, 14.3% 218, 14.3% 219, 14.3% 220, 14.3% 221, 14.3% 222, 14.3% 223, 14.3% 224, 14.3% 225, 14.3% 226, 14.3% 227, 14.3% 228, 14.3% 229, 14.3% 230, 14.3% 231, 14.3% 232, 14.3% 233, 14.3% 234, 14.3% 235, 14.3% 236, 14.3% 237, 14.3% 238, 14.3% 239, 14.3% 240, 14.3% 241, 14.3% 242, 14.3% 243, 14.3% 244, 14.3% 245, 14.3% 246, 14.3% 247, 14.3% 248, 14.3% 249, 14.3% 250, 14.3% 251, 14.3% 252, 14.3% 253, 14.3% 254, 14.3% 255, 14.3% 256, 14.3% 257, 14.3% 258, 14.3% 259, 14.3% 260, 14.3% 261, 14.3% 262, 14.3% 263, 14.3% 264, 14.3% 265, 14.3% 266, 14.3% 267, 14.3% 268, 14.3% 269, 14.3% 270, 14.3% 271, 14.3% 272, 14.3% 273, 14.3% 274, 14.3% 275, 14.3% 276, 14.3% 277, 14.3% 278, 14.3% 279, 14.3% 280, 14.3% 281, 14.3% 282, 14.3% 283, 14.3% 284, 14.3% 285, 14.3% 286, 14.3% 287, 14.3% 288, 14.3% 289, 14.3% 290, 14.3% 291, 14.3% 292, 14.3% 293, 14.3% 294, 14.3% 295, 14.3% 296, 14.3% 297, 14.3% 298, 14.3% 299, 14.3% 300, 14.3% 301, 14.3% 302, 14.3% 303, 14.3% 304, 14.3% 305, 14.3% 306, 14.3% 307, 14.3% 308, 14.3% 309, 14.3% 310, 14.3% 311, 14.3% 312, 14.3% 313, 14.3% 314, 14.3% 315, 14.3% 316, 14.3% 317, 14.3% 318, 14.3% 319, 14.3% 320, 14.3% 321, 14.3% 322, 14.3% 323, 14.3% 324, 14.3% 325, 14.3% 326, 14.3% 327, 14.3% 328, 14.3% 329, 14.3% 330, 14.3% 331, 14.3% 332, 14.3% 333, 14.3% 334, 14.3% 335, 14.3% 336, 14.3% 337, 14.3% 338, 14.3% 339, 14.3% 340, 14.3% 341, 14.3% 342, 14.3% 343, 14.3% 344, 14.3% 345, 14.3% 346, 14.3% 347, 14.3% 348, 14.3% 349, 14.3% 350, 14.3% 351, 14.3% 352, 14.3% 353, 14.3% 354, 14.3% 355, 14.3% 356, 14.3% 357, 14.3% 358, 14.3% 359, 14.3% 360, 14.3% 361, 14.3% 362, 14.3% 363, 14.3% 364, 14.3% 365, 14.3% 366, 14.3% 367, 14.3% 368, 14.3% 369, 14.3% 370, 14.3% 371, 14.3% 372, 14.3% 373, 14.3% 374, 14.3% 375, 14.3% 376, 14.3% 377, 14.3% 378, 14.3% 379, 14.3% 380, 14.3% 381, 14.3% 382, 14.3% 383, 14.3% 384, 14.3% 385, 14.3% 386, 14.3% 387, 14.3% 388, 14.3% 389, 14.3% 390, 14.3% 391, 14.3% 392, 14.3% 393, 14.3% 394, 14.3% 395, 14.3% 396, 14.3% 397, 14.3% 398, 14.3% 399, 14.3% 400, 14.3% 401, 14.3% 402, 14.3% 403, 14.3% 404, 14.3% 405, 14.3% 406, 14.3% 407, 14.3% 408, 14.3% 409, 14.3% 410, 14.3% 411, 14.3% 412, 14.3% 413, 14.3% 414, 14.3% 415, 14.3% 416, 14.3% 417, 14.3% 418, 14.3% 419, 14.3% 420, 14.3% 421, 14.3% 422, 14.3% 423, 14.3% 424, 14.3% 425, 14.3% 426, 14.3% 427, 14.3% 428, 14.3% 429, 14.3% 430, 14.3% 431, 14.3% 432, 14.3% 433, 14.3% 434, 14.3% 435, 14.3% 436, 14.3% 437, 14.3% 438, 14.3% 439, 14.3% 440, 14.3% 441, 14.3% 442, 14.3% 443, 14.3% 444, 14.3% 445, 14.3% 446, 14.3% 447, 14.3% 448, 14.3% 449, 14.3% 450, 14.3% 451, 14.3% 452, 14.3% 453, 14.3% 454, 14.3% 455, 14.3% 456, 14.3% 457, 14.3% 458, 14.3% 459, 14.3% 460, 14.3% 461, 14.3% 462, 14.3% 463, 14.3% 464, 14.3% 465, 14.3% 466, 14.3% 467, 14.3% 468, 14.3% 469, 14.3% 470, 14.3% 471, 14.3% 472, 14.3% 473, 14.3% 474, 14.3% 475, 14.3% 476, 14.3% 477, 14.3% 478, 14.3% 479, 14.3% 480, 14.3% 481, 14.3% 482, 14.3% 483, 14.3% 484, 14.3% 485, 14.3% 486, 14.3% 487, 14.3% 488, 14.3% 489, 14.3% 490, 14.3% 491, 14.3% 492, 14.3% 493, 14.3% 494, 14.3% 495, 14.3% 496, 14.3% 497, 14.3% 498, 14.3% 499, 14.3% 500, 14.3% 501, 14.3% 502, 14.3% 503, 14.3% 504, 14.3% 505, 14.3% 506, 14.3% 507, 14.3% 508, 14.3% 509, 14.3% 510, 14.3% 511, 14.3% 512, 14.3% 513, 14.3% 514, 14.3% 515, 14.3% 516, 14.3% 517, 14.3% 518, 14.3% 519, 14.3% 520, 14.3% 521, 14.3% 522, 14.3% 523, 14.3% 524, 14.3% 525, 14.3% 526, 14.3% 527, 14.3% 528, 14.3% 529, 14.3% 530, 14.3% 531, 14.3% 532, 14.3% 533, 14.3% 534, 14.3% 535, 14.3% 536, 14.3% 537, 14.3% 538, 14.3% 539, 14.3% 540, 14.3% 541, 14.3% 542, 14.3% 543, 14.3% 544, 14.3% 545, 14.3% 546, 14.3% 547, 14.3% 548, 14.3% 549, 14.3% 550, 14.3% 551, 14.3% 552, 14.3% 553, 14.3% 554, 14.3% 555, 14.3% 556, 14.3% 557, 14.3% 558, 14.3% 559, 14.3% 560, 14.3% 561, 14.3% 562, 14.3% 563, 14.3% 564, 14.3% 565, 14.3% 566, 14.3% 567, 14.3% 568, 14.3% 569, 14.3% 570, 14.3% 571, 14.3% 572, 14.3% 573, 14.3% 574, 14.3% 575, 14.3% 576, 14.3% 577, 14.3% 578, 14.3% 579, 14.3% 580, 14.3% 581, 14.3% 582, 14.3% 583, 14.3% 584, 14.3% 585, 14.3% 586, 14.3% 587, 14.3% 588, 14.3% 589, 14.3% 590, 14.3% 591, 14.3% 592, 14.3% 593, 14.3% 594, 14.3% 595, 14.3% 596, 14.3% 597, 14.3% 598, 14.3% 599, 14.3% 600, 14.3% 601, 14.3% 602, 14.3% 603, 14.3% 604, 14.3% 605, 14.3% 606, 14.3% 607, 14.3% 608, 14.3% 609, 14.3% 610, 14.3% 611, 14.3% 612, 14.3% 613, 14.3% 614, 14.3% 615, 14.3% 616, 14.3% 617, 14.3% 618, 14.3% 619, 14.3% 620, 14.3% 621, 14.3% 622, 14.3% 623, 14.3% 624, 14.3% 625, 14.3% 626, 14.3% 627, 14.3% 628, 14.3% 629, 14.3% 630, 14.3% 631, 14.3% 632, 14.3% 633, 14.3% 634, 14.3% 635, 14.3% 636, 14.3% 637, 14.3% 638, 14.3% 639, 14.3% 640, 14.3%

Joining the top guns for feats of clay

body supported by my left hand. I rested my cheek against the wooden part of the handle and allowed my eyes to travel the length of the barrel. "You won't miss the first clay, I promise you," John asserted confidently. "That's because I'll be guiding it," he added, grinning. He was right. The second clay pigeon (they are actually made from pitch and chalk) was for me to try alone. I followed its vertical trajectory, simply pointing the gun as John had taught me, and pulled the trigger. I closed my eyes tightly. When I opened them, the flat black disc was falling back to earth. My heart sank. I'd missed. "What are you sighing for?" said John. "You don't need to smash it to smithereens, only nicking it counts, too."

By closing my eyes I had missed the point of impact of my first solo shot — I resolved to keep my eyes open from then on. To my utter surprise and intense glee I hit all ten targets pulled.

The first championship was held at Wimbledon Park, London, in 1893 by the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association. There were 44 entries and the winner hit nine out of the ten targets. Clay pigeon shooting was featured at the second Olympic Games held in Paris in 1900. Britain won the team event.

Even today, it is a sport in which Britain dominates, particularly in the discipline, English Sporting, which features a variety of traps. In this year's world championships at Goodwood, Britain won gold

This week's Primary Update
is about literacy & numeracy.
(It's packed with words and
it costs you nought)

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
EVERY FRIDAY



Target practice at Grimsthorpe Shooting Ground, in Lincolnshire: Victoria Walker with John Bidwell, the world champion. To her surprise, she hit all ten targets pulled



Victoria Walker (second from left) is shown the course

HOW TO JOIN THE GUNS


● The side-by-side is the traditional game shooting gun. Its barrels are placed along-

John Bidwell's High Lodge Shooting School: 32 Cotner Road, Oulton Broad.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

On today's hand, from this year's Hubert Phillips (the national mixed teams championship), West found an inspired lead and followed up well; but there was a sad end for the defence.

Dealer West	Love all	Aggregate scoring
	♠Q883 ♥92 ♦Q84 ♣Q876	
♠AJ104 ♥K ♦KJ876 ♣KJ9		♠83 ♥543 ♦A10772 ♣1054
	♦K72 ♥AQJ10876 ♦— ♣A111	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: jack of clubs

West opened One Diamond, and after two passes South bid Four Hearts. Raymond Brock (West) hit on the bright lead of the jack of clubs. This deceived the declarer into thinking East had the king. That doesn't really hold water — if East had the king of clubs he could not have the ace or king of diamonds, as in that case he would have had enough to bid over One Diamond. So if East had the king of clubs West would have ace-king of diamonds, and would have led one of them.

However, declarer played low from dummy on the club and won in hand with the ace. He continued with the ace of hearts, and then drew the remaining two trumps. He continued with a low club, on which Brock played low in tempo. That was undoubtedly the correct play — first, the play to the first trick indicated that East was likely to have the ten of clubs (else why hadn't declarer covered the jack); second, if the declarer had the ten of clubs it was necessary for West to duck to shut out the club suit. But Brock had to be ready — it was no good

thinking about what to do when the declarer played the second club. Declarer played low from dummy, in effect hoping West's holding was J 10 9 x. Now how should East defend?

The **Stevk Lodge (East)** correctly overtook West's nine clubs with the ten, but mistakenly attempted to cash the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and played a third club; now he had an entry with the queen of spades for the thirteenth trick. The bridge school had played a spade after winning the club — that knocks out dummy's entry before declarer has set up all the clubs.

The London Trophy is a knock-out event for teams of four from non-bridge clubs. It is run by the London Contract Bridge Association and sponsored by Hilton UK, who provide a variety of prizes and cash for all the winners. Details contact C. Leighton on 0181-500 9700. Entries close in mid-September.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE ² on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE

150th anniversary

This year is the 150th anniversary of the match victory by the great British player Howard Staunton against his German rival Bernhard Horwitz. Staunton won convincingly by the score of 15½-8½ in a match which could be considered a fore-runner of modern world championship contests. Here is Staunton's best win from the match, a game featuring an imaginative king march at the end.

White: Bernhard Horwitz
Black: Howard Staunton
London 1846

Syllable Defense		
1	a4	c5
2	l4	a6
3	N3	d5
4	eeo5	eeo5l
5	Se2	Bd6
6	c3	Nc6
7	d3	Qc7
8	g3	Nf6
9	Na3	a6
10	Nc2	O-O
11	d4	Re8
12	O-O	Bd7
13	Kg2	Re7
14	Re1	Rae8
15	Bf1	Cb6
16	Rae7	Rae7
17	b3	cc4
18	Ncc4	Bc4
19	Bd3	Ne4
20	Bb2	Bc5
21	Qc2	Bxc4
22	Ncc4	Ncc4

23 cxd4 Rc7

24	Qb1	B13+
25	Kp1	15
26	Qe1	Re7
27	Rc1	K17
28	Bf1	g5
29	hxg5	Nxg5
30	Qd2	Kg6
31	Rc8	Qe8
32	Rd8	Bg4
33	Qf4	Nf3+
34	Kg2	Qe1
35	Rg8+	Kh5

There is no defence to ... Re2
For example 36 Rxf4 Re2+
Bxe2 Qxe2+ with mate
follow.

Staubton was not just a great player, indeed, the only British player who had a real claim to be world champion, but also a prolific writer. Staubton's name is also perpetuated through the Staubton pieces, those commonly used for all important national and international competitions.

In this, the sesquicentennial year, of his match victory against Horwitz, the Staunton Society, with Nigel Short as its President, is active in seeking to redress one of the great injustices. Staunton's remains lie in an unmarked grave identifiable only from archival records, in London's Kensal Green Cemetery. The object of the Staunton Society is to raise sufficient funds to erect a suitable memorial to Staunton on the site. Donations are welcome, while membership costs £25 per annum and entitles subscribers to regular literature about Staunton, and attendance at dinners and lectures. Those interested in supporting the cause should write to Brian Clivaz, the Treasurer, c/o Simpson's of the Strand, 100 The Strand, London WC2.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

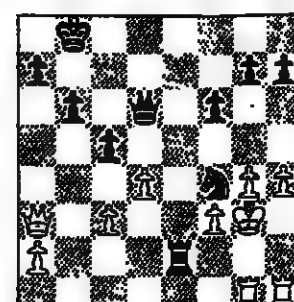
b. A glycoprotein
c. An imposter dentist

c. A German ale

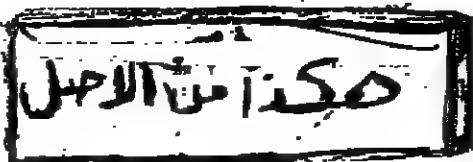
WINNERS 100

By Raymond Koenig

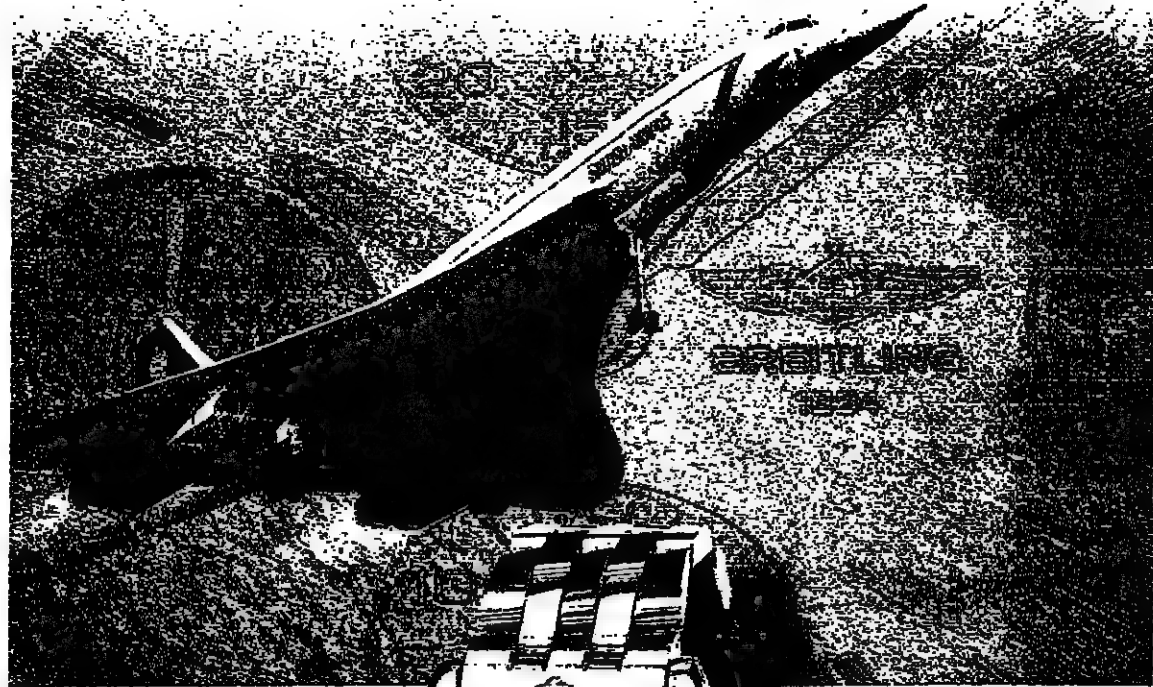
Black to play. This position is from the game Koch — Richter, Berlin 1929. Black can make a discovered check here by moving his knight away from f4. A discovered check can be a powerful weapon and here is enabled Black to find a route to force checkmate. Can you see how?



Solution on page 46



BREITLING
1884



CHRONOMAT

The rugged and compact CHRONOMAT was designed and developed in cooperation with the crack pilots of Italy's elite Freccia Tricolori flying team.

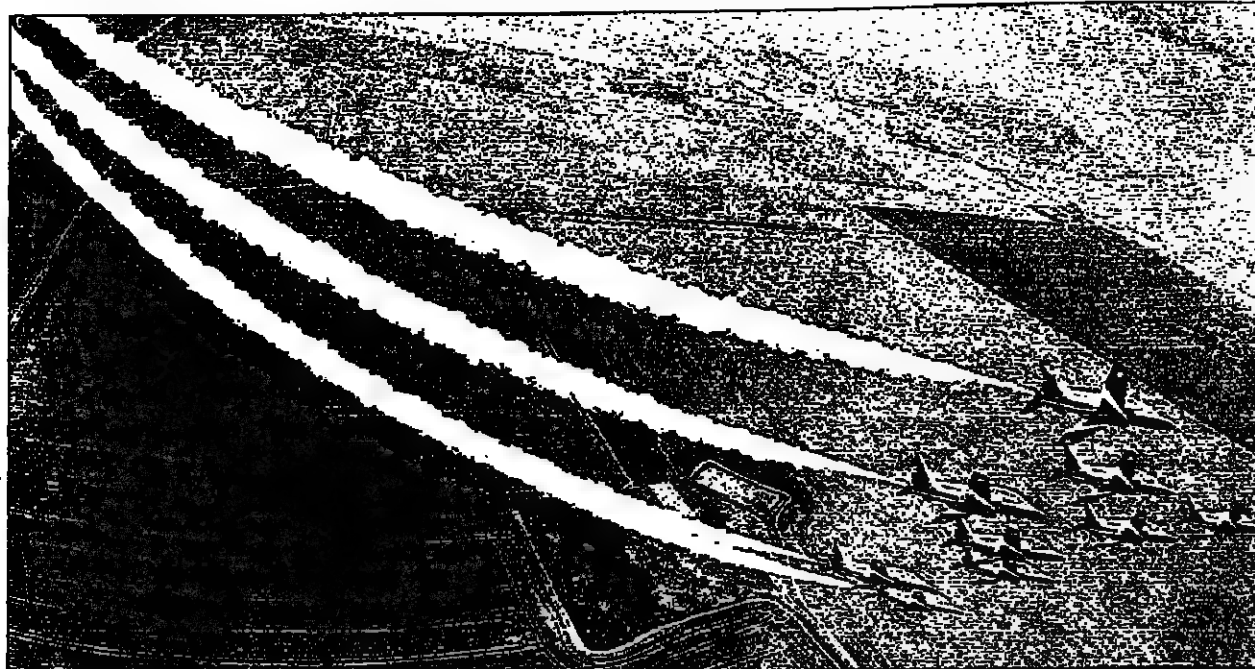
Probably the world's favorite upmarket self-winding chronograph, its crisply technical good looks and straight profile are designed for total functional convenience. The BREITLING CHRONOMAT: mastering time with the ease and efficiency of the Concord's sleek flowing lines.

Mechanical chronograph

Designed for service in the demanding, split-second world of fighter aircraft, the CHRONOMAT is easy to handle and operate, measuring times from 1/10th second to 12 hours and providing intermediate and cumulative flying times when needed. Its rotating bezel with rider tabs can be used to set a time reference or deadline. Available to steel, steel and gold or 18K yellow or white gold. Leather strap; PILOT or ROULEAUX bracelet.

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Harvey Elliott introduces a report on the world's best air show



The Red Arrows team will be showing off their precision flying and their daring in the skies above Farnborough

Farnborough opens

Farnborough International '96 — the world's leading commercial and military aerospace display and exhibition — opens today, facing changes that could threaten its own long-term future. Over the next six days there will be four elements at work in the vast tented complex on the site.

The first will be the sales effort by companies ranging from the giants, such as British Aerospace and Boeing, to the minnows who supply, perhaps, one piece of equipment among the millions which go into an aircraft.

About 1,100 firms are displaying products in the four exhibition halls. In 1994, 64 per cent of the visitors came from outside Britain and, says the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC), the show's organisers, spent \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) as a result of the meetings set up during the show. They are likely to spend at least as much again this year, they say.

In the industry, hopes are high that demand for aircraft — from small commuters to the long-haul giants — will grow. But will any such improvement be matched by an

even bigger fall in defence equipment sales?

The second element will be the corporate entertainers, the "big boys" of the international aerospace industry, who must be seen at Farnborough to remain in the big league. They rent the 155 specially built chalets, costing anything up to £20,000 for the week, appoint caterers, invite their most important clients to lunch and then get down to serious networking.

The third element is the public show. This year the Farnborough organisers have made a big effort to attract even more than the 230,000 visitors who came last time. The layout of the public areas has been improved and increased in size, and children under 16 will be admitted free.

Apart from being able to see some of the world's most exciting aircraft — such as the B2A Stealth bomber — visitors can take a turn in a Red Arrows Hawk or a British Airways simulator.

For the past week dozens of pilots have been rehearsing for the afternoon flying displays. Each of the more than 40 aircraft taking part has been approved by the Flying Control Committee to ensure that it is both visible and safe. No

aircraft is allowed to fly below 100ft in level flypasts or 500ft during manoeuvres.

The roar of aircraft engines means that people living near Farnborough are certain to be disturbed during the show. However, the SBAC says most are happy to put up with the noise once every two years because surveys have shown that the event brings £50 million to the national economy and £7 million and 1,000 temporary jobs to the local area.

The fourth element will be political. Once Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, has performed the formal opening he will be lobbied over Farnborough's future. The airfield is surplus to requirements and the Ministry of Defence has put it up for sale. At least one minister — Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster — says the Government is committed to keeping the biennial show at Farnborough.

Air shows are mushrooming around the world while aerospace companies themselves baulk at the spiralling costs of displaying their products in the seemingly never-ending round of exhibitions. Peter Taylor, deputy director of the SBAC, says: "There may well be a single European exhibition in the end but that time is not now. Everyone wants to have fewer air shows but it is not possible to control their development."

The SBAC itself may be one of the companies bidding to take over the display area if it is sold separately, but millions of pounds would need to be spent on developing Farnborough as a civilian airfield. The Government has indicated it would prefer the airfield to be maintained as a civilian regional aviation centre, so the most likely outcome is for the airfield to be sold separately from surrounding land and for it then to be leased or rented — possibly to SBAC and others.

But if the inquiry into the local development plan prevents its continued use as an airfield or a buyer cannot be found willing to invest the necessary amount to bring it up to the required standard, Farnborough may be forced to close down. The SBAC has looked at several other possible sites around Britain to hold the show, and rejected them all. "There is simply no alternative to Farnborough," Mr Taylor says.

Four European nations, one unbeatable defence solution.

The Eurofighter 2000 is a single seat, twin engine, multi-mission fighter aircraft. It is a superiorly light and agile, manoeuvring fighter, designed to outclass all current and future fighters. It is a true team effort, created by four NATO partners. It has been created by four NATO partners. The programme involves over 400 companies and will employ more than 150,000 people working at the frontiers of knowledge. Like all aerospace programmes it's vast, complex and technologically demanding. Once again, the route to success has been the approach we've always championed: teamwork.

Appearing at Farnborough International



BRITISH AEROSPACE

سكوتيا للاله

Air displays will range from the Sopwith Camel to the latest Russian interceptor, as well as the Red Arrows, says Arthur Reed

Although the real commercial business of the Farnborough show is carried on behind the scenes in the company hospitality chalets and on the exhibition stands, it is the aircraft which the crowds come to see — and this year's event has attracted an exceptional line-up. Entrants range from the Sukhoi SU27 Russian interceptor, making its first public appearance outside its home country, to the American Northrop B-2A Stealth bomber, built almost entirely from composite materials to avoid detection by radar; from the latest airliners by Boeing, of the US, and the Airbus Industrie European consortium, to the super-sonic Concorde, from a prototype of the Eurofighter 2000, being developed by Germany, Britain, Italy and Spain, to the famous opponents in an earlier era of aerial warfare, the Supermarine Spitfire, and the Messerschmitt Me109.

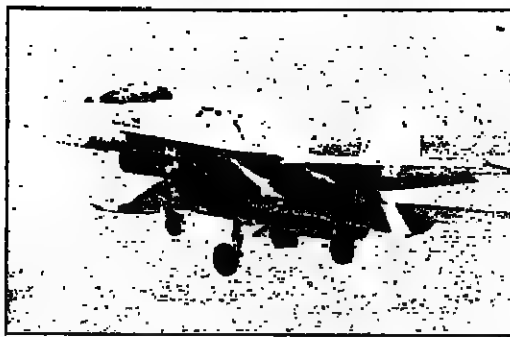
The Sukhoi is likely to prove the star of the flying display, as its design incorporates vectored

thrust which, according to the show's organiser, makes it capable of "startling manoeuvres". Acrobatic military aircraft from the West include the British Hawk and Harrier, the French Mirage 2000 and Rafale B, the American F-16, and F-48 Hornet, and the Swedish Saab JAS39 Gripen.

New to the show is the Lockheed C130J, the updated version of the long-serving Hercules military transport, which incorporates a high proportion of British-made equipment, including propellers from Dowty, and which has been ordered for the RAF.

Although the warplanes will be out in force, defence orders are falling away and the real emphasis is on the civil sector. With the world's airlines in a buying mood, Boeing is parading its latest wide-body airliner, the twin-jet 777 — the first aircraft off the line, flown

Watching the brightest stars of the skies



High-flyers: Sukhoi SU27 Russian interceptor, left, and American Northrop B-2A Stealth bomber



over specially from Seattle — while Airbus will put up its competitor, the four-engine A340. The fiercest fight for orders comes in the sector for regional airliners with 100 seats and less, and here the main interest will be concentrated on the Embraer Emb-145 50-seat twin-jet, making its first appearance at an air show

outside its native Brazil. Other regional airliners on show will include the British Avro RJ100, and Jetstream 41, the French/Italian ATR 42 and 72, the Canadian RJ and Dash 8, and the German (but recently sold to the US Fairchild company) Dornier 228 and 328.

At the fun end of the show is the

vintage aircraft park, with a large collection of originals and replicas, among them a Westlander Lysander, Bristol Blenheim, Hawker Hind, Avro 504K, SE5a, Tiger Moth, Gypsy Moth, Sopwith Camel and Fokker Eindecker. Intrepid wing-walkers will fly past the crowds on the public days strapped to the out-

side of elderly biplanes, while a replica of the Vickers Vimy, the first aircraft to make a non-stop crossing of the Atlantic, crewed by Alcock and Brown in 1919, is due to take off from Farnborough on the final day of the show on the first leg of a flight to South Africa.

Concorde will arrive on Saturday and leave the following afternoon, while the RAF's Battle of Britain Flight, consisting of Lancaster, Hurricane and Spitfire, and the Red Arrows, the RAF aerobatic team in their scarlet Hawks will make their now traditional appearances.

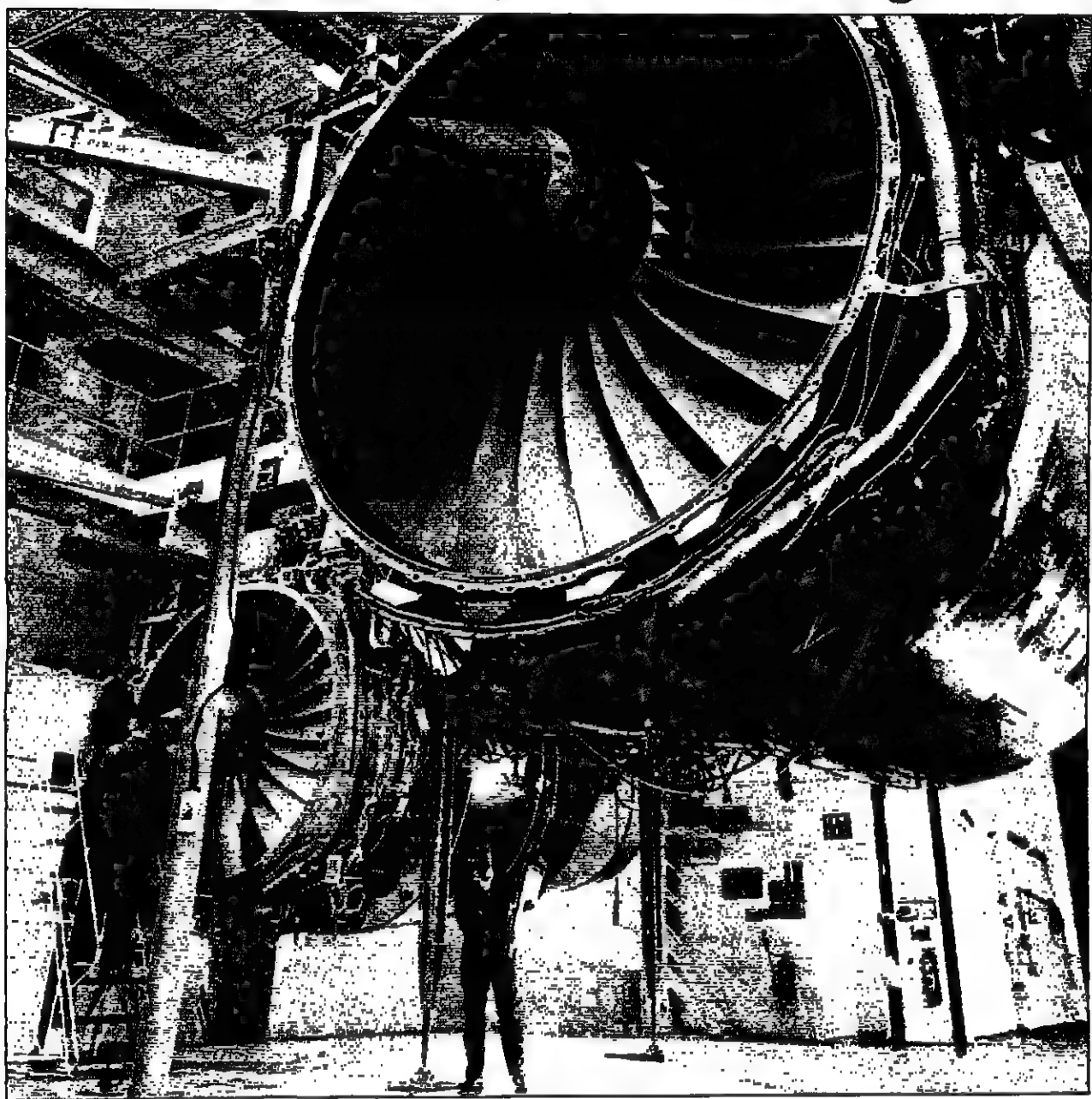
Ensuring the safety of the 240 aircraft entered for this Farnborough show is the task of the Flying Control Committee, under the chairmanship of Group Captain Roger Beazley, a former commanding officer of Farnborough. "It is a relatively small airfield," he said, "almost surrounded by

built-up areas, so the safety rules have to be strictly observed."

Farnborough is unusual among air shows in Britain in that all displays by the various aircraft have to be demonstrated and validated by the committee. The task is complicated by there often being two routines for each aircraft — one for good weather, another for bad. Reserve pilots also have to be validated, so the process is lengthy and complex. Routines vary greatly, ranging from the simple take-off in the Vimy replica, to the six-minute displays of the fast jets, to the 20-minute routine of the nine-aircraft Red Arrows formation.

Environmental nuisance also falls within the committee's remit. Group Captain Beazley said: "We are fortunate at Farnborough in that the local population generally recognises that the air show is held only once every two years, and most are very supportive of the event. After all, it does bring in business to the area, and Farnborough is the birthplace of military aviation."

Tomorrow's world on show today



Up, up and away: Rolls-Royce Trent engines being prepared for testing at the company's civil headquarters in Derby

Airframe, engine and equipment manufacturers arrive at this year's Farnborough show earlier and fitter than they were two years ago, having shed staff and streamlined working practices.

It is also a more compact industry than at Farnborough '94. There have been major aerospace consolidations in America, notably between Lockheed and Martin, while the French industry is discussing a merger between its two main companies, Aerospatiale and Dassault. The famous old Dutch Fokker company has gone, while British Aerospace, Aerospatiale and Alenia of Italy have merged their regional aircraft businesses into a new consortium, AIR.

With many painful decisions taken, there is a fresh mood of optimism among the manufacturers, and this is reflected by the fact that the two "giants" — Boeing of America and the European group Airbus Industrie — are each planning to expand their production rates during the next two years.

Boeing is expected to use the show to announce the launch of its 747-500 and 600 models, the 500 to carry 462 passengers over a 16,100km range, the 600 with 548 passengers over 14,340km. Both models will be based on the company's successful 747-400, but will require a newly designed wing. Airbus is unlikely to allow its great rival to fill this gap in the market unopposed, and is thought to be close to launching its A3XX, a 600-seat double-decker based on a new, rather than a derivative, design.

The cost of such developments is enormous, and in the case of the A3XX has been put as high as £8 billion. Airbus is

Arthur Reed on an industry that has come out of the recession ready for business

should make it easier to invite new manufacturing partners into the consortium, and to raise launching funds in the international money markets.

When Airbus does become a limited company, the workforces involved in Airbus manufacturing in its four partner companies — Daimler-Benz of Germany, Aerospatiale, British Aerospace, and CASA of Spain — will come under the control of the consortium's management, a factor which is complicating the current negotiations in France to roll Aerospatiale and Dassault into one.

The will to become more international in aerospace affairs does exist in France, however, with Matra, that country's major missile manufacturer, prepared to pool with British Aerospace, so creating Europe's largest company in this sector with an annual turnover approaching £1 billion. France also co-operates with Germany on a number of

joint projects, including the Tiger attack helicopter, and the Helios reconnaissance satellite.

In the engine sector, the three big Western manufacturers — Rolls-Royce of Britain, and Pratt and Whitney and General Electric of America, will again be battling with each other at this show for orders for their latest big-fan power plants with up to 100,000lb of take-off thrust, respectively the Trent, the PW4000 and the GE90. This is a cut-throat market in which profit margins are shaved, and engine finance and support packages are made increasingly attractive, as the efforts to woo those airlines buying Boeing 777s and Airbus A330s continue.

Ironically, the manufacturers in this sector of aerospace are becoming the victims of their own technical success, for the quieter, more efficient engines which they have now developed need far fewer

spare parts than previous models — with the result that a lucrative source of income is in decline.

A bewildering array of aerospace equipment — from rivets to radars, from satellite-based air navigation systems to flight recorders — will be vying for visitors' attention at the show, but the main action will be among companies developing computerised flight decks and passenger cabins. The galloping pace of computer chip technology is turning pilots, both civil and military, into systems managers, and the next generations of such systems, where those in charge of the aircraft will speak or just think commands, will be on display.

As airliner ranges become longer, the need to keep the passengers occupied while, at the same time, maximising their profit potential, is becoming of increasing interest to the airlines. Companies promoting in-flight telephones, already a familiar feature on some flights, and in-flight fax machines, will have their wares on show, with incoming calls to passengers, via satellite, as the next promised development.

Other specialist equipment companies at Farnborough will be demonstrating various forms of in-flight entertainment through seat-back or seat-arm videos. With the swipe of a credit card, the passenger can choose from a wide selection of films, buy items displayed on a shopping programme, book a hotel, restaurant, car hire, or tour at the destination city, or gamble at roulette, poker, fruit machines, or blackjack. One manufacturer has estimated that a jumbo jet fitted with such systems could generate

Linking up on defence

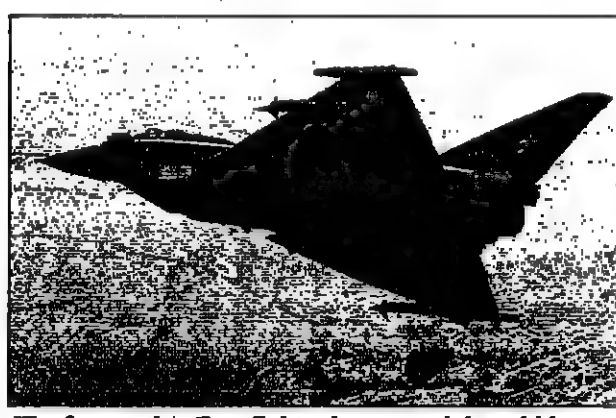
While cutback and retrenchment remain the buzzwords for defence in Europe and America, major military expansions continue in the Middle East and Asia (especially China). Against this backdrop, defence industry sales executives are confident that their wares will find no shortage of customers this week.

However, the cost of new equipment means that upgrades and refinements will come top of the shopping list, and that international co-operation is the escalating trend in manufacturing. Cross-border partnerships abound, particularly as Europe gets its act together to counter the might of the American giants. Euro-American collaboration deals are also increasing as a way to spread the cost burden, the jobs benefit, and to offset the national prejudices against items "not invented here".

British Aerospace ranks fourth in the global league table of defence companies behind the three American rivals — Lockheed Martin, McDonnell Douglas and Northrop Grumman.

The UK company comes to Farnborough buoyed by two major contracts recently awarded by the Ministry of Defence and confident that its latest star product — the

Chris Lockwood reports on great co-operation and fierce rivalries



The four-nation Eurofighter is a potential world-beater

Eurofighter 2000 — is a potential world-beater.

In late July, BAe won MoD contracts worth £2 billion for a new conventionally-armed stand-off missile (CASOM) and a replacement maritime patrol aircraft (RMPA) for the Royal Air Force. At the same time, the two-seat variant of the Eurofighter was preparing for its imminent maiden flight.

All three products will be displayed at Farnborough this week, and all are classic examples of the trend toward international interlocking in major defence programmes.

BAe, which won the MoD deal in the face of stiff opposition from Lockheed's updated Orion, estimates there is a market for some 450 upgrades around the world. In addition, the company has teamed with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing in the UK to build Nimrod to meet an anticipated demand for about 250 aircraft.

In addition to collaboration with the two US companies (Boeing to supply advanced avionics) Nimrod 2000 involves more than 200 British suppliers, including Rolls-Royce/BMW, Short Brothers,

Smiths Industries and Lucas Aerospace.

Illustrating both European co-operation and division at Farnborough this week are the three contenders for the vital role of air superiority fighter for the next century. Sweden's Saab JAS39 Gripen, France's Dassault Rafale, and the four-nation Eurofighter will all fly, the first time all three have performed at the same air show.

At stake is a potential market for more than 1,000 aircraft in Europe alone with over twice that number for export. The competition is really between the Eurofighter and the Rafale, with the latter fully expected to equip French air and naval needs, and the former aiming at the forces of the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain. Gripen is considered to be a light combat aircraft by comparison.

Eurofighter's main competitor remains on the other side of the Atlantic. The new Lockheed Martin F22 fighter, in combat tests against its logical opponent, the Sukhoi SU35 "Flanker", has triumphed by a ratio of 92 per cent. Eurofighter, in similar tests, has vanquished the opposition 82 per cent of the time, but, as its makers say, at half the cost of its American rival.

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TICKETS AND TIMES

Farnborough International '96 runs from September 2-8. The first five days are trade days, with no admission for visitors under 16. The show is open to the public on the final two days. Opening hours are

cost £15 a day, £13 if bought in advance. Advance tickets from Ticket Master: 01541 551996. Children under 16 free if accompanied by an adult. The flying display will begin daily at 2.30pm and last for about two-and-a-half hours.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	PE	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	PE	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	PE	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					BANKS					PHARMACEUTICALS					SUPPORT SERVICES				
11700 Alcon	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 Bank of America	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Bristol-Myers	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 Computer Sciences	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Anheuser-Busch	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 Bank of New York	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Glaxo	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 EDS	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Beck's	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 Citicorp	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Johnson & Johnson	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 GenCorp	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Budweiser	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 First Union	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Merck	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 Ingersoll Rand	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Carlsberg	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 JPMorgan Chase	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Pfizer	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 Linde	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Heineken	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 PNC Financial	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Schering-Plough	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 Nucor	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
11700 Kronenbourg	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	10000 Sun Life	25.00	4.0	0.0	10.0	11000 Takeda	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0	12000 Owens-Ill	45.00	4.5	0.0	17.0
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Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 3pm

With luck, and plenty more caveats, Lloyd's is about to survive its worst crisis. It will trade into the next century, insuring anything from space satellites to village fetes, from supertankers to family saloon cars. But anyone who has watched the travails of the venerable London insurance market, even at a safe distance, will realise that last week's fifth-act drama and resolution will not end the story — except in the television versions that will doubtless follow.

Assume for a moment that names' landslide agreement to Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal settlement leads to the Government authorising Equitas, the dustbin reinsurance company at the centre of the settlement plan. Assume that names pay up, along with professionals who have promised cash to avoid being sued. Lloyd's itself will then be solvent and people ruined in the process can finally escape a life sentence of open-ended contracts and liabilities to suffer in private.

A rescue process that has taken three years, infinite pain and unfairness, unmet needs of the great and plausible, and many thousand man-days of legal argument, will be completed. What had to be done will have been done.

The end of a marathon for names will fire a gun for faster change at Lloyd's. Scandals had infected the

Peace treaty with names offers new life to Lloyd's



GRAHAM SEABURN

300-year-old institution for 20 years before they culminated in losses far greater than could be blamed on the innate risks of insurance. The abuse and corruption that spawned disaster go back much further. Lloyd's was poorly led, as arrogant as its new building and complacent over the good livings so many made at the expense of names.

Almost too late, Lloyd's got lucky with its chairman, David Coleridge, though one of the old guard, had the sheer decency and transparent goodwill needed to persuade warring names and appalled Parliamentarians not to raze the whole rotten structure to the ground.

David Rowland, glacially smooth and the most prominent member of the by-now hated broking community, could probably not have done that. As a modern manager, however, he had the vision and intellect to map a way forward for the market and the steady determination to lead his quarrelling band through the morass. He deserves much credit for doing so, even if he lost a charismatic

chief executive and a credible regulator on the way.

Had Mr Rowland not been pre-occupied with settling the past, Lloyd's would be further ahead with the reform he initiated before becoming chairman. Investors are providing lots of new capital via corporate vehicles. Underwriting syndicates have been rationalised; trading in units of capacity has brought more openness. But pressures have quickened.

Most solvent names are staying

on to profit from better times. But the typical post-war name has little long-term future as an independent sole trader. In the beginning, Lloyd's names were merchant venturers and grantees, confident British successors to the merchants of Venice.

Later, the net was cast too wide. Names included high earners attracted by tax breaks and the Lloyd's route round exchange controls. There were authors and actresses who suddenly had money to invest, landowners and politicians seeking high returns that left them free to hunt or win votes — and humbler folk who did not know the risks.

Professionals will always be there, like "locals" on commodity exchanges, along with the bored super-rich and merchant adventurers, from Hong Kong rather than London. The rest will surely give way to corporate money as decisively as institutions have displaced private investors on the stock market. If Lloyd's gets its act together, much new business will be gathered by insurance companies and con-

tracted out to the skilled underwriters who are its principal asset.

A rash of bids and deals will doubtless follow the settlement. Some may be the right ones, creating integrated underwriting houses akin to City fund managers. The needs of new names might in future best be catered for by the likes of private banks. The rest of the market must concentrate on cutting costs and improving efficiency to make up for the basic cost advantages that will be lost with the decline of unlimited liability.

Regulators will vet professionals individually. They could hasten the departure of the incompetent. But regulation itself still has low status at Lloyd's and needs more reform.

Mr Rowland and Ron Sandler, his admirably low-profile chief executive, know that their exchange faces much stiffer competition, not least from huge new reinsurance groups. Lloyd's lost momentum and business as well as reputation. It will need to market itself harder and tailor its services to what foreign customers now want.

To prosper as well as survive, Lloyd's should, above all, embrace a new outward-looking culture. To see the way ahead and the pitfalls, compare London's Stock Exchange with its International Financial Futures Exchange. There is no prize for guessing the right model.

Sky's the limit for sleeker Airbus

July 8, 1996, will go down in history as a milestone in European aerospace history. It was the day the Europeans moved to give the Americans a run for their money. It was the day that could give British Aerospace undisputed dominance in Europe. And it was the day Boeing executives will remember with horror, because it was the day that Airbus announced it would turn itself into a single company.

The announcement this week at the Farnborough Air Show of the go-ahead for the A3XX "superjumbo" will be the first tangible result of this change. BAE will be able to trumpet how, after years of lobbying, it persuaded the July meeting of the Airbus supervisory board in Paris to agree to change the corporate structure of the four-nation consortium.

Jürgen Schrempf, chairman of Daimler Benz, the German partner, confirmed the move when he announced the German group's half-year results last Friday. "What counts is that every partner in the Airbus consortium has to become competitive individually. I am convinced that this

will necessarily lead to the transformation of Airbus into a joint stock company," he said. The four partners will sign an agreement by the end of this year which will chart a timetable for the flotation.

Under present arrangements, profits and losses accrue to the four partner companies — BAE, Aérospatiale de France, Daimler Benz Aerospace (Dasa) and CASA of Spain — rather than the consortium. The four also share manufacturing work in proportion to their holdings.

But operating as a single commercial unit will make Airbus much more cost efficient, BAE told the partners, because workshare would be allocated according to where manufacturing is cheapest rather than on the basis of the owners' holdings. BAE holds only 20 per cent in Airbus which means that the far less efficient French and German partners, with their 37.9 per cent stakes, get a disproportionately large share of the work, driving up the cost of Airbus aircraft.

When Airbus executives arrive at the Farnborough Air Show this morning, they will



The A3XX will at last allow Airbus, the European planemaker, to challenge Boeing

be greeted by enthusiastic industry watchers. One analyst close to BAE said: "The intention behind creating Airbus was to become a flagship aerospace business which could challenge Boeing for the leadership in the commercial aviation market."

After years of catching up, Airbus saw its first victory in 1994 when it won the largest share of new orders for aircraft. Airbus immediately claimed to have clinched the crown from Boeing. But Boeing still had more than 50 per cent of total orders out-

standing — not just the ones made in 1994. Airbus was still the number two.

At that time, Airbus's growing success mirrored the declining fortunes of America's number two, McDonnell Douglas. Airbus had overtaken McDonnell Douglas, but what tripped up the US group could also create problems for the Europeans. McDonnell Douglas was falling behind because it had not invested enough in new technologies and had failed to build long-range jets, the real growth market in aviation. To avoid the same pitfalls, Airbus would have to double its research and development efforts.

In 1995 Boeing regained its dominant position. Its success was built on two pillars.

The first one can be summed up in one number: 747. This is by far the world's most popular long-range aircraft and has no serious competitors. Boeing is now even talking about making a new version, the 747-700, which will increase seating capacity from 450 to 500.

Fortunately for Boeing the long-range market is the fastest growing and most profitable sector in civil aviation. Boeing's other strength is having the US Government behind it. The company is the largest US exporter and Washington is very much aware of

this. Hence, the aerospace industry in Seattle has enormous lobbying power.

The US Government supports Boeing primarily through the Export-Import Bank, set up in 1974 to finance and guarantee American exports. It is known in the industry as "Boeing Bank". Where struggling airlines cannot afford Boeings, the Ex-Im will step in.

Airbus has very little to set against this. Some of its aircraft are technologically more advanced than Boeing's.

But in its two key strengths Boeing is streets ahead. First, Airbus does not have an aircraft that can compete with the 747.

Airbus's other problem is its lack of political support. Airline executives buying an aircraft from Boeing will get a personal call from President Clinton making a Boeing sales pitch, because every sale is a vote-winner. Jacques Santer doesn't really carry the same clout.

In terms of financing, the four national export agencies are also no match for the Americans. The Ex-Im aggressively pursues foreign buyers while its European equivalents are caught up in rivalry. The only way out is for Airbus to change its ownership structure which it is now doing. Airbus will finally be able to start developing the A3XX with 550 or more seats. The four partners had balked at its £8 billion development costs but today will give it the green light.

"As a reorganised business Airbus will be able to effectively compete with Boeing," a City corporate financier said.

Without a doubt the move will be more in BAE's interest than anyone else's. As the only consortium partner that is privatised and whose core activity is aerospace, BAE is the most efficient operator in the consortium. BAE will steal large chunks of workshare from Aérospatiale and Dasa, which is not considered a core interest for Daimler.

When the glasses of champagne are raised in the Airbus pavilion at Farnborough to celebrate a hefty increase in orders, BAE executives will be cheering the loudest.

OLIVER AUGUST

Rogue trader is shopped

THE authorities scouring the world for Yasuo Hamanaka, the rogue Sumitomo copper trader, might consider going back to first principles. Had they looked, they would have found him at home. Mr Copper, as he is known, was spotted by a correspondent from Reuters shopping at a supermarket in a Tokyo suburb yesterday. The intrepid reporter asked Hamanaka where he had been hiding, to be told: "I've been living at my home since leaving Sumitomo."

Saddle sore

RICHARD BRINDLE, an underwriter with Charman Underwriting, who has just returned from a marathon bike ride through Russia, has found sitting rather painful of late. Brindle is just one of 50 to have completed the 200km journey, but during the run he was the only one whose saddle caused him so much pain that he had to swap his cycle for a pair of running shoes after the first 50km. The group raised more than \$100,000 in aid of "Downside Up", the charity. The cash will help to build a day-care centre for

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Moscovite children with Down's syndrome.

Nick of time

WORKING round the clock has its rewards, even if it does involve fending off unwanted thieves. John Bedwell, a production manager at The Presentation Company, the wizards that put the sparkle into AGMs, was still in the office headquarters in Clerkenwell at 3am last week, working on a presentation for Merrill Lynch, when he heard a burglar break in. Quick-thinking Bedwell rang the police, the building was surrounded within minutes, and an arrest was made.

MORAG PRESTON

RADIO CHOICE

Wicked uncle, but all in fun

Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe. Radio 4, 9.15pm.

In Uncle Mort (the matchless Stephen Thorne), writer Peter Timewood has created one of radio's true imperishables. Not a gracious word does he utter, and not a gracious thought crosses his mind. His sudden bursts of enthusiasm are manic. He behaves abominably towards his never-absent nephew Carter Brandon (Sam Kelly). His contempt is universal in application and surreal in composition. Expanding tonight on his scorn for the widening scope of the Olympics, he foresees competitions for piano tuning and synchronised nose-picking. Behind the closed curtains and shut doors he passes on his Welsh odyssey, he imagines collections of burglars' collar-studs or wet batteries and 20 jam jars. Tonight, his rugby-playing idol reveals feet of Welsh clay.

Battling With the Past. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

This is as much a contest of speculation as it is a test of knowledge. The subject is the Wars of the Roses. Ronald Hutton is the question-master and three academics from the Universities of Lancaster, Keele and Edinburgh, plus an author, blow the dust of history off that bloody conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster. Hutton proves a bit of a punster. He says Margaret of Anjou was "the greatest Lancaster bomber in history". And "guilty as hell," he says about Richard III's role in the murder of the Princes in the Tower, implicitly acting as foreman of the jury.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 8.00am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lesi Anson 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session Includes the 600 Radleys in session 9.00 Donnington 96 10.00 Mark Lamarr 12.00 Clare Scurges 4.00am Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Alex Lester 5.00 Paul Hickey 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Britain Today 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lytton 10.00 On the Air (3/6) 10.30 The Jimenezes 10.50 News 11.00 David Allen and Pavee For Thought

RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Inc 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme Inc 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.55 The Magazine, with Diana Medel, Inc 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mel, Inc 12.35pm Moneyweek 2.05 Russia on Five, Inc 3.05 Actually Across the World, Inc 4.55 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, Inc at 7.30 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Games that Changed Football. Rangers v Celtic in 1961 Scottish Cup Final 8.00 The Monday Match. Coverage from Hillsborough of Leicester City v Sheffield Wednesday 10.05 News Talk, with Mike Baker 11.40 Night Edit, with Valerie Sanderson 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight, with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Radcum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 6.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Bach (Two Sonatas in E flat, BWV525); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D); Beethoven (Sonata No 12 in E flat); Strauss (Suite in B flat, Op 4, for 12 wind instruments); Poulenc (Two Marches and an Interlude; Piano Concerto) 8.00 Morning Collection. Includes Haydn (Sturm and Drang Symphonies); Mendelssohn (Overture Ruy Blas); Dvorak (Symphonic Dance, Op 72 Nos 2-5); Janacek (Our Father); Haydn (Symphony No 35 in B flat) (Sposolito, Années de Pelerinage); Copland (Appalachian Spring); Mendelssohn (Variations Serieses); Beethoven (Coralaria Caim Sea and Prosperous Voyage, Op 112); Haydn (Sonata in C minor, H XVI 20); David Blake (Violin Concerto) 12.00 Composers of the Week Manuel de Falla, Roberto Gerhard and the Heritage of Spain 1.00pm News, Prose Chamber Music 1995, Wolf (Italian Serenade); Bruckner (String Quintet in F) 2.05 The BBC Choralists. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under David Atherton. Includes Mussorgsky (A Night on the Bare Mountain); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Little Russian); Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor) 3.45 Voices. Stephen Varcoe introduces songs which have been important to him over the years. Includes Mussorgsky (Lullaby, Songs

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Soundbyte 7.30 Andy Kershaw 8.15 Off the Shelf. Tender is the Night (1/20) 8.30 The Vintage Chart Show 9.15 20/20 9.45 Music Through Stained Glass 10.05 Business 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf. Tender is the Night (1/20) 12.30 Omnibus 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Andy Kershaw 3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 5.50 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.30 Brain of Britain 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Muttack. He List 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Legal Rights, Legal Wrongs 10.45 The World of Computers 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.10am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.30 Muttack: Hi List 1.30 Global Concerns 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Reid 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Concerto. Haydn (Keyboard Concerto in D major) 3.00 James Cack 6.00 Concerto. Newswright 6.30 Sonata. Saint-Saëns (Sonata No 1) 7.00 Celebrity Choice (1) 8.00 Evening Concert. Lutoslawski (Dance Preludes, Ad libitum) (Warsaw Concerto), Szymanowski (Molin Concerto No 1), Gorecki (Symphony No 3) 10.00 Michael Mappin 12.00 Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky 6.00 7.00 Paul 7.00 (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 12.00 Jeremy Clark

RADIO 4

and Dances of Death); First (Wonder, Diana Nalini); Grainger (Shadow Brown); Elgar (Where Corals Lie, Sea Pictures) 4.30 First 82nd. Ayn Shlopian concludes his profile of the bassist Ray Brown (6/6) 5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson (1) 6.15 In Tune. Presented by Natalie Wheen. Includes Miles Davis (Blue in Green); Strauss (Dance of the Seven Veils, Salome); Schreker (The Birthday of the Infanta) 7.30 BBC Prevue 1996. Live from the Albert Hall in London, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, under Simon Rattle. Includes Messiah (Chronochronicle) 7.55 Brahms (Horned 8.15 Proms Part 2. Bruckner (Symphony No 7 in E) 8.50 The Fortissimo Cafe: Who's it For? The first of five exchanges between the poet and jazzman Roy Fisher, and jazzman Mel Hill 10.00 Ensemble. A programme of music inspired by Ancient Greece. Christodoulos Georgiades, piano. Constantinos (Children's pieces, excerpts); Parnassus (Las Cyclopes); L'Entretien des Muses); Strakoskas (Piano Suite No 3); Sate (Cymnopsis No 2); Haydn (for a Little White Sea Shell, excerpts) 10.45 Muzzing it, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall 11.30 Composers of the Week Brahms (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing (LW) 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Fryer for the Day 6.30 Today Inc 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Family Life: Birth, Death and the Whole Carrot Thing. Elizabeth Luard's account of the time she and her four children spent living in rural Ardahan (1/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. In the first of a new series, Melvyn Sings is joined by guest interviewer Brenda Maddox and guests Pat Kane, Linda Colley, Peter McKay, and Orlando Figueas 10.00 News; Battling with the Past (FM). See Choice 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.20 Women's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: Phone 0171-520 4444 12.00 News; You And Yours, with Dylan Winter 12.25pm Britain 1995 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World At One, with Nick Clarke 1.49 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Out of the Woods, by Owen Wynne, with Harriet Walter and Kevin McNally (1) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laura Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews the Michael Dibdin thriller Cosi Fan Tutte and sees a new play at the Chichester Festival about Beatrix Potter 4.45 Short Story: Attention to Detail, by Alan Harn. Read by Chris Fawcett (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News Quiz. Simon Hoggart chairs the comedy panel game with Francis Wheen, Jeremy Hardy, Steve Punt and Nick Clarke (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Over the Counter. Oliver Watson visits the fish market in Aberdeen with fishmonger Ken Watmough (2/4) (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: Rebel Angel, by Angus Graham Campbell. The life story of the young John Keats, set during the time he spent in London training as a surgeon. With Julian Rhind-Tutt, Joshua Towle and Ross Livingstone (1) 8.15 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe. See Choice (2/5) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enigma Samuel West reads Robert Harris's acclaimed Second World War thriller (6/12) 11.00 No Illusions Francine Stock presents the last of five discussion programmes. The traditional family is being replaced by new networks of support — but do our laws reflect that? With John Gray, Dr Ray Pahl, Anne Spackman, Victoria Glandinning and Mark Simpson 12.00 News Inc 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 Late Story: Some Kind of Black, by Dren Adebayo Read by Alan Mogg (1/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 92.0-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.00pm). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1055, 1085. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dean, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McKenna.

ENGINEERING DISASTERS.



PM

TONIGHT AT 8 - HOW REAL DO YOU WANT IT?



سكينة الأمل

Wickedly entertaining in a daring manner

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In the first scene of *Truth or Dare* (BBC1) on Saturday night, Helen Baxendale answered her mobile phone. She was in bed at the time, during the day, and either sporting a pretty little black bra — or not, as was often the case thereafter. Ah yes, shameless Miss Baxendale from *Cardiac Arrest* — clever, selfish, arrogant, wicked, and with perfect floppy hair. One of the many reasons *Truth or Dare* worked superbly was that you could believe totally in this character (Lorna); and not just for her. "It's for you, David," she said, feigning to pass the phone to an alarmed-looking man. "It's your wife."

It was important that she did this, in retrospect. Of course it was not David's wife on the phone. But such a pointless practical joke established the territory of *Truth or Dare* at once. Practical jokes exert unfair power: they are motivated by cruelty (born of resent-

ment, usually); and there are some people who just can't resist playing them. When Lorna's terrifyingly turned up — Nick, Mel and Ben — it was clear immediately that practical jokes were their special genius. Without a minute's delay, they would her up and watched her dance, so many times in one evening that I lost count.

"I'm a mugger! — No I'm not, your car's been stolen! No it hasn't. I am terminally ill! Made you look." Any normal person would run a mile from these infantile creeps; but Lorna was bored with her nice legal job and her tacky love-life, also she fancied Nick (John Hannah) and besides she was capable of saying "It's for you, David; it's your wife," just for the sake of a reaction. So she did not run a mile. Instead she said "Stay with me," thus setting in motion the very believable destruction of her career, her peace

of mind, and (almost) her life. *Truth or Dare* was brilliant — like Jonathan Demme's film *Something Wild* only with genders reversed, more plausibility, and a better ending. Motivated malignity is hard to bring off, these ghastly three stroges made perfect sense. Fekless people really do despise the industrious; seven years after university, with the achievement gap widened, Nick, Mel and Ben would have Lorna for forging a respectable life. Her grimly determined exertions, extending to symbolic (but ultimately handy) rock-climbing — would simply eat her up.

The only odd thing about *Truth or Dare* is that no-body seems to have written it. I can't find an accountable name anywhere, which is a shame since it was one of the best written screenplays I have seen in years, both inevitable and surprising.



and hero-cards should be sent. The director John Madden (of *Prime Suspect* and *Morse*) did a fabulous job, too; likewise the photographer and the excellent cast, among whom Helen Baxendale soared in my estimation. Obligated to suffer shock after shock — her career undermined, public humiliation, a murder rap, a car crash — she absorbed it all in her little sharp face, coarsened by anger, grief and

even scars. What a tough woman; what a star. John Hannah's main job was to look dangerous in sheepskin (wolf in sheep's clothing, ho ho), which he accomplished with suspicious ease. I thought; meanwhile Susan Lynch as the malevolent Mel was first-rate.

Everything else is a bit of an anticlimax after that. I want to write about *The Great Antiques Hunt*, but it seems too abrupt, somehow. Of course, BBC1 itself screened the final seconds of *Truth or Dare* on Saturday night — a moody long-shot of Baxendale dangling from a rope on a Scottish crag (signifying loneliness, survival, an eternal moment, and also the last bit of string she was to be on the end of — and then launched into a chirpy trailer for Nigel L. Vaillant in that godawful police surgeon vet countryside thing. It's always a shock when that happens. Recovery time for sensitive people is almost never built into

the schedule. Credits roll for *Schindler's List*, and then what's this? Why, it's Jim Davidson with *The Generation Game*!

Oh well, can't hang about here, either. But forgive me if I rattle. The best news was that Channel 4's first Talent-spotting film last night, *Christmas*, was an impressive product, and such a great advance on the channel's previous "Alan Bleasdale Presents" that I nearly burst into tears of gratitude. Producer Tony Garnett turns out to be more reliable at talent-spotting than Bleasdale. Perhaps they should have asked him in the first place.

Anyway, Tom and Jez Butterworth gladly took the writing credit here — Jez Butterworth already well known for his energetic *Majo* at the Royal Court, *Christmas* was a simple story about an impressionable and loyal

boy Marry (Hans Matheson) brought to a rites-of-passage crisis in London's underworld. The dialogue was stagey, and the whole subject was violence, but what the hell, David Mamet gets away with it. Meanwhile the script was perfectly matched to the talents of Marc Munden, a first-time drama director whose alarming documentary *Bermudez Boy* still haunts me, even though it was first shown in 1991. I saw *Silence of the Lambs* on the same day, and it paled by comparison.

But what of *The Great Antiques Hunt* (BBC1)? Damn, no space. But trust me, anything that rewards nobles for shopping — well, it's got to be good. Jilly Gooden was genuinely aghast when she saw that antique towel rail for £69, because she'd just paid more herself. "You can't get a new one for that," she exclaimed, with a wobble of emotion. Oh Jilly, Jilly. It happens to us all.

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

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CHOICE

X Cars

BBC1, 8.30pm

As Hollywood discovered years ago, there is nothing like a high-speed car chase for riveting the attention. Since then television has not been slow to latch on to the real thing. The latest venture in this field is a documentary series based on the Department of Greater Manchester Police, a team of 36 officers set up to combat car crimes. Since one is committed in the city on average every five minutes, the squad is in no danger of being underworked. If the first programme has a fault it is putting its best material at the start. The police pursuit of a BMW, doing up to 110 mph with a drunken driver at the wheel, tends to leave the rest as anticlimax. But we are treated to a demonstration of the stinger, a bed of nails used to stop fugitive cars by puncturing their tyres.

The Upper Hand

ITV, 8.30pm

For five years and more than 80 episodes, the cliffhanger that sustained this benign sitcom. When (not whether) housekeeper Charlie (Joe McGann) would marry his boss, Caroline (Diana Weston). When they finally tied the knot she seemed to have come to a natural end. That, at least, was the view of the producers. But popular demand and, no doubt, a paucity of good comedy ideas, have brought *The Upper Hand* back. The question this time is when Charlie and Caroline will have a baby and how the new arrival will go down in an already overcrowded household. Meanwhile there is much bickering to be done as the couple come to terms with newly married life. Maintaining the easy-going tone of the series, Colin Ross-Smith's script is unchallenging but neatly crafted.

Cutting Edge: The Scrupulous Business

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Although it must have been put together well before anybody had heard of Mandy Allwood, this documentary from the ITN stable has uncanny echoes of her story. A film about British families who have become famous in recent weeks, on the ethics of newspaper intrusion, the medical reservations about fertility treatment and arguments over whether vast sums of National Health Service money might be better spent. The Waltons, Britain's first sexuplet family, were fortunate. The children all survived and media and sponsorship deals helped to defray the soaring cost of a suddenly extended family. But in later cases the publicity has been intrusive, rather than rewarding, particularly for one couple who saw five of their children die within nine months.

Pioneers: Battle With the Bugs

BBC2, 9.30pm

As a leading figure in the conquest of tuberculosis, Sir John Crofton deserves to be remembered in a series celebrating trail-blazers in British medicine. It may be hard to believe now, but as late as the 1940s TB was a widespread killer and had no effective treatment. As sufferers recall, the best that could be prescribed was isolation, fresh air and three raw eggs a day. Working with a team in Edinburgh, Crofton ran trials with combinations of new drugs and came up with a virtually 100 per cent cure. The trials were so successful that sceptical doctors south of the border virtually accepted Crofton of cooking his figures. But soon TB sanatoriums all over Britain were closing. The story has a sobering tale. The disease has returned to British cities while experts give warning that in developing countries it could become an untreatable epidemic. Peter Waymark

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The Pioneers: Battle With the Bugs

BBC2, 9.30pm

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CHOICE

X Cars

BBC1, 8.30pm

As Hollywood discovered years ago, there is nothing like a high-speed car chase for riveting the attention. Since then television has not been slow to latch on to the real thing. The latest venture in this field is a documentary series based on the Department of Greater Manchester Police, a team of 36 officers set up to combat car crimes. Since one is committed in the city on average every five minutes, the squad is in no danger of being underworked. If the first programme has a fault it is putting its best material at the start. The police pursuit of a BMW, doing up to 110 mph with a drunken driver at the wheel, tends to leave the rest as anticlimax. But we are treated to a demonstration of the stinger, a bed of nails used to stop fugitive cars by puncturing their tyres.

The Upper Hand

ITV, 8.30pm

For five years and more than 80 episodes, the cliffhanger that sustained this benign sitcom. When (not whether) housekeeper Charlie (Joe McGann) would marry his boss, Caroline (Diana Weston). When they finally tied the knot she seemed to have come to a natural end. That, at least, was the view of the producers. But popular demand and, no doubt, a paucity of good comedy ideas, have brought *The Upper Hand* back. The question this time is when Charlie and Caroline will have a baby and how the new arrival will go down in an already overcrowded household. Meanwhile there is much bickering to be done as the couple come to terms with newly married life. Maintaining the easy-going tone of the series, Colin Ross-Smith's script is unchallenging but neatly crafted.

Cutting Edge: The Scrupulous Business

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Although it must have been put together well before anybody had heard of Mandy Allwood, this documentary from the ITN stable has uncanny echoes of her story. A film about British families who have become famous in recent weeks, on the ethics of newspaper intrusion, the medical reservations about fertility treatment and arguments over whether vast sums of National Health Service money might be better spent. The Waltons, Britain's first sexuplet family, were fortunate. The children all survived and media and sponsorship deals helped to defray the soaring cost of a suddenly extended family. But in later cases the publicity has been intrusive, rather than rewarding, particularly for one couple who saw five of their children die within nine months.



ENGAGED 45

Camelot runs into trouble over phonecard scheme

BUSINESS

INSURED 46

Graham Searjeant on the rescue plan at Lloyd's



ARK

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Simpson accepts tougher targets over £10m package

BY JASON NISSE

GEC, the huge electronics group, is to tell institutional investors today that it will amend the contract of its new chief executive, George Simpson, to add stricter performance targets that must be reached before he receives the lion's share of his £10 million package.

The move, at the prompting of Mr Simpson himself, will head off an institutional investor revolt that had some leading shareholders threat-

ening even to vote against the appointment of the former Lucas and Rover chief.

Today, Lord Weinstock, GEC's chairman, is to meet Richard Regan, of the Association of British Insurers, in an attempt to ease the dispute.

Investors do not have an opportunity to vote directly on the package. However, Norwich Union, the insurer, has already said that it is considering voting against Mr Simpson's appointment because of

the contract, and other institutions are considering following suit.

One large investor told *The Times* that it was waiting for the ABI meeting before deciding its voting policy. Another institution said that unless there were amendments to the contract, it would abstain or vote against Mr Simpson's appointment.

"We all accept that he is the right man for the job, but we need to send a message to industry at large to get their house in order," it said. Lord Weinstock will be able to tell

the ABI that Mr Simpson has agreed that stricter performance targets can be inserted in his contract so that he would have to deliver a marked improvement in the financial results of GEC before receiving the big bonuses set out in the contract.

Currently, all that needs to happen is for GEC shares to outperform the stock market by 10 per cent for Mr Simpson to receive a "phantom share option" package worth four times his £600,000 basic salary.

This target would have been met in most years of the past decade.

GEC will insert a target for GEC's financial performance, comparing it with similar companies in the UK and Europe. However, the remuneration committee, led by Lord Rees-Mogg, a former editor of *The Times*, will find it difficult to identify enough directly comparable companies.

It is understood that the committee was unwilling to insert too high a performance threshold in the

original contract because of the contract Mr Simpson already had at Lucas.

This was almost certain to pay out a large bonus if Mr Simpson had stayed on, and, because of this, GEC was willing to make a £500,000 upfront payment and make it relatively easy for Mr Simpson to receive his long-term bonuses.

However, Mr Simpson agreed over the weekend to accept harder targets. "He is not a greedy man," a GEC source said.

Porterbrook investors net £32m

Directors of Charterhouse Bank who invested £89,000 in Porterbrook, the British Rail rolling stock leasing company, when it was privatised eight months ago, stand to share profits of at least £32 million from its sale to Stagecoach, the transport company, it has been claimed.

Victor Blank, chairman, and a number of fellow directors, share profits of £12.7 million on their holdings, according to *The London Financial News*. In addition they stand to make at least £19 million from their personal share of Charterhouse's profits on the deal.

Daimler slims

Daimler-Benz Aerospace, Germany's largest aircraft maker, is spinning off two of its aircraft plants as part of an effort to reduce costs and return to profit by 1998. The streamlining is part of its rigorous cost-cutting programme, news of which caused widespread work stoppages and protests last autumn.

Festival success

Edinburgh's festival month ended at the weekend with organisers claiming a record-breaking box office success for the fifteenth annual arts festival. Ticket sales for the International Festival passed the £2 million mark for the first time and the Fringe sold more than 1.5 million tickets.

Virgin venture

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is looking to launch a range of cosmetics and toiletries to run alongside its new jeans business. The move would exploit a gap in the cosmetics market and competitors would include the Body Shop.

Euro 96 gives strong kick to economy

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LAGER, takeaway pizzas and foreign football fans may have accounted for an astonishing quarter of the 0.4 per cent growth in the British economy between April and June as the Euro 96 football championships gave the economy a useful extra kick.

The biggest boost came from the estimated 250,000 extra tourists who came to Britain for the tournament and spent about £500 apiece. Jonathan Loyne, an economist with HSBC Markets, calculates that this is the

England team in its ill-fated semi-final against Germany — probably accounted for one quarter of a 6.75 per cent jump in sales of clothing and footwear in June.

Also, for once, Britain's lager louts can be thanked for their positive contribution to the country. Supermarket lager sales were up a staggering 55 per cent year-on-year in the second week of the tournament. Off-licences also saw spectacular gains.

And what better to accompany a beer than a takeaway? Figures from Domino's Pizza show that sales jumped by 88 per cent on the day of England's semi-final, compared with the same day the previous week. Pizza Hut saw sales up 75 per cent on semi-final day, compared with a year earlier. 50 per cent on the day of England's quarter-final against Spain, and 30 per cent on other match days.

Overall, Mr Loyne believes that spending by British consumers was boosted only modestly by the football factor because there were offsetting falls in other kinds of spending, such as the National Lottery. In the first full week of the tournament, combined sales of online and "instant" lottery tickets fell to their lowest level since the introduction of the scratchcards in March 1995. Spending in theatres, cinemas and video rental shops are thought to have slumped as the nation stayed at home to watch key matches on television.

Beyond hard figures and anecdotal evidence, Mr Loyne suggests that the psychological impact of England's winning run may have had intangible benefits for the economy, providing a much-needed burst of the "feel-good" factor.

"And one thing is certain," he added, "Whatever the true impact, it would have been even larger had England gone on to win the tournament. Gareth Southgate has a lot to answer for!"



Drinking to success before Scotland v Holland. Supermarket lager sales leapt 55 per cent in the second week of Euro 96

Airbus 800-seater taking wing

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is expected to give the go-ahead for the development of the world's biggest jetliner, capable of carrying up to 800 passengers, at this week's Farnborough Air Show.

Growing interest from airlines has convinced Airbus that the \$8 billion development programme is viable and inevitable. The first passenger-carrying jet, code-named the A3XX, could be in operation by 2003.

Detailed market research by Airbus indicates that there will be a market for 1,380 airliners of 500 seats and above, worth more than \$300 billion, up to 2014. The first version of the "super-jumbo" will seat around 555 passengers in three classes. But if demand from charter operators and Far Eastern domestic airlines is as strong as is now predicted, up to 800 seats could be installed.

The A3XX will have a range of up to 8,500 nautical miles, be twice the size of the biggest jet now in operation and — most importantly for airline economic planning — be capable of being stretched should demand for air travel grow.

British Airways could be among the launch customers for the \$220 million jet. The airline needs to replace some of its older Boeing 747s to enable the airline to expand.

Spreading wings, page 46

Panel may act on Treg attack

BY JASON NISSE

THE Takeover Panel may force Sir Geoffrey Linter, the former leading civil servant who now chairs TR European Growth Trust (Treg), to retract criticisms of the board of the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) made after

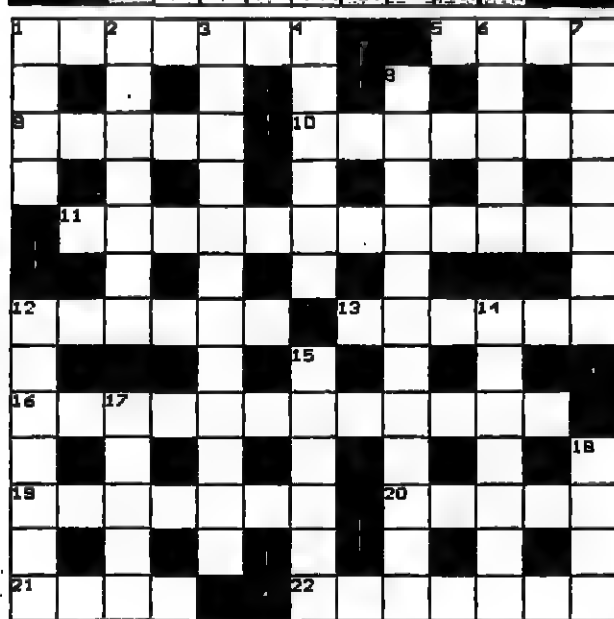
with a dozen institutions making approaches to take over Kepit. Kepit is now pushing for all those interested to make public their offers.

The board of Kepit was also angered by Sir Geoffrey, who said in a document published on the company news service of the Stock Exchange on Thursday: "Kepit still appear to be using smoke and mirrors to implement a cozy City fix. The directors are clearly out of

touch with investors." Although the Kepit board has decided against possible legal action, a spokesman said: "We think these suggestions are negative, rude and certainly libellous."

The Takeover Panel is also understood to be unhappy with Treg. It has told Hoare Govett, the trust's advisers, that it may force a retraction, a move which would be embarrassing to both Sir Geoffrey and Hoare Govett.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 876

ACROSS

- 1 Urban stronghold (7)
- 5 Excess supply (4)
- 9 Crusade, commonly cocktail (5)
- 10 Generally (7)
- 11 Surly and miserly (12)
- 12 Giving signal, sounds like lining up (5)
- 13.21 US Caribbean commonwealth (6,4)
- 16 Ck, comic dramatist (12)
- 19 To season; distinctive quality (7)
- 20 Boudicca's tribe (5)
- 21 See 13
- 22 Word of same meaning (7)

DOWN

- 2 Cloak; headland (4)
- 3 Stander (7)
- 4 Division of church; size of banknote (12)
- 6 London insurance house (6)
- 7 Acquire knowledge (5)
- 8 Sigh-of-quarry cry (5-2)
- 9 Removal of red tape (12)
- 12 Sloped top of egg post (7)
- 14 Sussex girls' school (7)
- 15 Flashes of fire; radio officer (6)
- 17 Son of Abraham (5)
- 18 Solid; business (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 875

ACROSS: 5 Writer's cramp 8 Retina 9 Assure 10 Ally 12 Alacrim 14 Educate 15 Prig 17 Pollen 18 Modify 20 Prouderance

DOWN: 1 Sweet-and-sour 2 Kiwi 3 Askance 4 Wrestler 6 Exam 7 Morning after 11 Locality 13 Stand by 16 Omar 19 Dune

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666p, 670p, 674p, 678p, 682p, 686p, 690p, 694p, 698p, 702p, 706p, 710p, 714p, 718p, 722p, 726p, 730p, 734p, 738p, 742p, 746p, 750p, 754p, 758p, 762p, 766p, 770p, 774p, 778p, 782p, 786p, 790p, 794p, 798p, 802p, 806p, 810p, 814p, 818p, 822p, 826p, 830p, 834p, 838p, 842p, 846p, 850p, 854p, 858p, 862p, 866p, 870p, 874p, 878p, 882p, 886p, 890p, 894p, 898p, 902p, 906p, 910p, 914p, 918p, 922p, 926p, 930p, 934p, 938p, 942p, 946p, 950p, 954p, 958p, 962p, 966p, 970p, 974p, 978p, 982p, 986p, 990p, 994p, 998p, 1002p, 1006p, 1010p, 1014p, 1018p, 1022p, 1026p, 1030p, 1034p, 1038p, 1042p, 1046p, 1050p, 1054p, 1058p, 1062p, 1066p, 1070p, 1074p, 1078p, 1082p, 1086p, 1090p, 1094p, 1098p, 1102p, 1106p, 1110p, 1114p, 1118p, 1122p, 1126p, 1130p, 1134p, 1138p, 1142p, 1146p, 1150p, 1154p, 1158p, 1162p, 1166p, 1170p, 1174p, 1178p, 1182p, 1186p, 1190p, 1194p, 1198p, 1202p, 1206p, 1210p, 1214p, 1218p, 1222p, 1226p, 1230p, 1234p, 1238p, 1242p, 1246p, 1250p, 1254p, 1258p, 1262p, 1266p, 1270p, 1274p, 1278p, 1282p, 1286p, 1290p, 1294p, 1298p, 1302p, 1306p, 1310p, 1314p, 1318p, 1322p, 1326p, 1330p, 1334p, 1338p, 1342p, 1346p, 1350p, 1354p, 1358p, 1362p, 1366p, 1370p, 1374p, 1378p, 1382p, 1386p, 1390p, 1394p, 1398p, 1402p, 1406p, 1410p, 1414p, 1418p, 1422p, 1426p, 1430p, 1434p, 1438p, 1442p, 1446p, 1450p, 1454p, 1458p, 1462p, 1466p, 1470p, 1474p, 1478p, 1482p, 1486p, 1490p, 1494p, 1498p, 1502p, 1506p, 1510p, 1514p, 1518p, 1522p, 1526p, 1530p, 1534p, 1538p, 1542p, 1546p, 1550p, 1554p, 1558p, 1562p, 1566p, 1570p, 1574p, 1578p, 1582p, 1586p, 1590p, 1594p, 1598p, 1602p, 1606p, 1610p, 1614p, 1618p, 1622p, 1626p, 1630p, 1634p, 1638p, 1642p, 1646p, 1650p, 1654p, 1658p, 1662p, 1666p, 1670p, 1674p, 1678p, 1682p, 1686p, 1690p, 1694p, 1698p, 1702p, 1706p, 1710p, 1714p, 1718p, 1722p, 1726p, 1730p, 1734p, 1738p, 1742p, 1746p, 1750p, 1754p, 1758p, 1762p, 1766p, 1770p, 1774p, 1778p, 1782p, 1786p, 1790p, 1794p, 1798p, 1802p, 1806p, 1810p, 1814p, 1818p, 1822p, 1826p, 1830p, 1834p, 1838p, 1842p, 1846p, 1850p, 1854p, 1858p, 1862p, 1866p, 1870p, 1874p, 1878p, 1882p, 1886p, 1890p, 1894p, 1898p, 1902p, 1906p, 1910p, 1914p, 1918p, 1922p, 1926p, 1930p, 1934p, 1938p, 1942p, 1946p, 1950p, 1954p, 1958p, 1962p, 1966p, 1970p, 1974p, 1978p, 1982p, 1986p, 1990p, 1994p, 1998p, 2002p, 2006p, 2010p, 2014p, 2018p, 2022p, 2026p, 2030p, 2034p, 2038p, 2042p, 2046p, 2050p, 2054p, 2058p, 2062p, 2066p, 2070p, 2074p, 2078p, 2082p, 2086p, 2090p, 2094p, 2098p, 2102p, 2106p, 2110p, 2114p, 2118p, 2122p, 2126p, 2130p, 2134p, 2138p, 2142p, 2146p, 2150p, 2154p, 2158p, 2162p, 2166p, 2170p, 2174p, 2178p, 2182p, 2186p, 2190p, 2194p, 2198p, 2202p, 2206p, 2210p, 2214p, 2218p, 2222p, 2226p, 2230p, 2234p, 2238p, 2242p, 2246p, 2250p, 2254p, 2258p, 2262p, 2266p, 2270p, 2274p, 2278p, 2282p, 2286p, 2290p, 2294p, 2298p, 2302p, 2306p, 2310p, 2314p, 2318p, 2322p, 2326p, 2330p, 2334p, 2338p, 2342p, 2346p, 2350p, 2354p, 2358p, 2362p, 2366p, 2370p, 2374p, 2378p, 2382p, 2386p, 2390p, 2394p, 2398p, 2402p, 2406p, 2410p, 2414p, 2418p, 2422p, 2426p, 2430p, 2434p, 2438p, 2442p, 2446p, 2450p, 2454p, 2458p, 2462p, 2466p, 2470p, 2474p, 2478p, 2482p, 2486p, 2490p, 2494p, 2498p, 2502p, 2506p, 2510p, 2514p, 2518p, 2522p, 2526p, 2530p, 2534p, 2538p, 2542p, 2546p, 2550p, 2554p, 2558p, 2562p, 2566p, 2570p, 2574p, 2578p, 2582p, 2586p, 2590p, 2594p, 2598p, 2602p, 2606p, 2610p, 2614p, 2618p, 2622p, 2626p, 2630p, 2634p, 2638p, 2642p, 2646p, 2650p, 2654p, 2658p, 2662p, 2666p, 2670p, 2674p, 2678p, 2682p, 2686p, 2690p, 2694p, 2698p, 2702p, 2706p, 2710p, 2714p, 2718p, 2722p, 2726p, 2730p, 2734p, 2738p, 2742p, 2746p, 2750p, 2754p, 2758p, 2762p, 2766p, 2770p, 2774p, 2778p, 2782p, 2786p, 2790p, 2794p, 2798p, 2802p, 2806p, 2810p, 2814p, 2818p, 2822p, 2826p, 2830p, 2834p, 2838p, 2842p, 2846p, 2850p, 2854p, 2858p, 2862p, 2866p, 2870p, 2874p, 2878p, 2882p, 2886p, 2890p, 2894p, 2898p, 2902p, 2906p, 2910p, 2914p, 2918p, 2922p, 2926p, 2930p, 2934p, 2938p, 2942p, 2946p, 2950p, 2954p, 2958p, 2962p, 2966p, 2970p, 2974p, 2978p, 2982p, 2986p, 2990p, 2994p, 2998p, 3002p, 3006p, 3010p, 3014p, 3018p, 3022p, 3026p, 3030p, 3034p, 3038p, 3042p, 3046p, 3050p, 3054p, 3058p, 3062p, 3066p, 3070p, 3074p, 3078p, 3082p, 3086p, 3090p, 3094p, 3098p, 3102p, 3106p, 3110p, 3114p, 3118p, 3122p, 3126p, 3130p, 3134p, 3138p, 3142p, 3146p, 3150p, 3154p, 3158p, 3162p, 3166p, 3170p, 3174p, 3178p, 3182p, 3186p, 3190p, 3194p, 3198p, 3202p, 3206p, 3210p, 3214p, 3218p, 3222p, 3226p, 3230p, 3234p, 3238p, 3242p, 3246p, 3250p, 3254p, 3258p, 3262p, 3266p, 3270p, 3274p, 3278p, 3282p, 3286p, 3290p, 3294p, 3298p, 3302p, 3306p, 3310p, 3314p, 3318p, 3322p, 3326p, 3330p, 3334p, 3338p, 3342p, 3346p, 3350p, 3354p, 3358p, 3362p, 3366p, 3370p, 3374p, 3378p, 3382p, 3386p, 3390p, 3394p, 3398p, 3402p, 3406p, 3410p, 3414p, 3418p, 3422p, 3426p, 3430p, 3434p, 3438p, 3442p, 3446p, 3450p, 3454p, 3458p, 3462p, 3466p, 3470p, 3474p, 3478p, 3482p, 3486p, 3490p, 3494p, 3498p, 3502p, 3506p, 3510p, 3514p, 3518p, 3522p, 3526p, 3530p, 3534p, 3538p, 3542p, 3546p, 3550p, 3554p, 3558p, 3562p, 3566p, 3570p, 3574p, 3578p, 3582p, 3586p, 3590p, 3594p, 3598p, 3602p, 3606p, 3610p, 3614p, 3618p, 3622p, 3626p, 3630p, 3634p, 3638p, 3642p, 3646p, 3650p, 3654p, 3658p, 3662p, 3666p, 3670p, 3674p, 3678p, 3682p, 3686p, 3690p, 3694p, 3698p, 3702p, 3706p, 3710p, 3714p, 3718p, 3722p, 3726p, 3730p, 3734p, 3738p, 3742p, 3746p, 3750p, 3754p, 3758p, 3762p, 3766p, 3770p, 3774p, 3778p, 3782p, 3786p, 3790p, 3794p, 3798p, 3802p, 3806p, 3810p, 3814p, 3818p, 3822p, 3826p, 3830p, 3834p, 3838p, 3842p, 3846p, 3850p, 3854p, 3858p, 3862p, 3866p, 3870p, 3874p, 3878p, 3882p, 3886p, 3890p, 3894p, 3898p, 3902p, 3906p, 3910p, 3914p, 3918p, 3922p, 3926p, 3930p, 3934p, 3938p, 3942p, 3946p, 3950p, 3954p, 3958p, 3962p, 3966p, 3970p, 3974p, 3978p, 3982p, 3986p, 3990p, 3994p, 3998p, 4002p, 4006p, 4010p, 4014p, 4018p, 4022p, 4026p, 4030p, 4034p, 4038p, 4042p, 4046p, 4050p, 4054p, 4058p, 4062p, 4066p, 4070p, 4074p, 4078p, 4082p, 4086p, 4090p, 4094p, 4098p, 4102p, 4106p, 4110p, 4114p, 4118p, 4122p, 4126p, 4130p, 4134p, 4138p, 4142p, 4146p, 4150p, 4154p, 4158p, 4162p, 4

FROM LAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Morris: will not offer Clinton informal advice

Mr Morris is alleged to have paid Ms Rowlands about \$12,000 and the auditors want to make sure that none of that was charged as campaign expenses. If it was, the campaign could be in serious trouble with the Federal Election Commission because the President had accepted nearly \$13 million in election marching funds from the Government.

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Pinkey, an African-American, told *Publishers Weekly*. Meanwhile, HarperCollins, which sells an average of 20,000 copies a year of the Bannerman edition, is also releasing a new version of *Little Black Sambo*. Set in India and called *The Story of Little Babaji*, the book has new illustrations but sticks closely to Bannerman's text by giving all the characters Indian names. The moth-

story. *Sam and the Tigers* sets its main character — renamed

soldiers and police set up checkpoints on key roads entering the capital, while patrols were stepped up in the city centre, where the President was due to speak. The rebel raids, which target-

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

The plan, certain to upset civil rights groups, would provide airlines with profiles of passengers' credit records, flying habits and other personal data to determine whether their checked baggage should be subject to special inspection.

The chief advantage of the plan is that it would greatly reduce the number of bags requiring detailed examination as the computer data would remove the need to search luggage from the majority of the passengers.

The idea has been formulated by a commission on aviation safety appointed by President Clinton after the loss in July of TWA Flight 800. Led by Al Gore, the Vice-President, the commission is due to issue its preliminary report next week.

US Customs officers use a similar database with details of incoming passengers.

BY JAMES BONE

A SECOND component of the plastic explosive Semtex has been identified on the wreckage of TWA Flight 800, bringing investigators closer to declaring that the crash off Long Island was the worst terrorist attack in America.

The FBI crime laboratory which last month found microscopic traces of PETN high explosive on the debris, last week established the presence of RDX which, like PETN, is a prime ingredient of plastic explosives such as Semtex, used to bomb PanAm Flight 103 over Lockerbie.

RDX was invented in Germany in 1920 and used widely in the Second World War by Britain, which code-

named it "Research Department Explosive". Unlike PETN, RDX is not commercially available and is therefore less likely to have got on board Flight 800 by accident. The aircraft had, however, been used within the past year to ferry American troops.

Investigators are perplexed that the traces of RDX were found on a curtain that normally hangs in the plane's rear cargo hold, far from the suspected source of the explosion in the centre of the plane, where the PETN was detected.

The FBI and the National Transportation Safety Board said that until they had evidence, such as "physical damage or patterns characteristic

of a detonation", they were not ready to declare the crash a terrorist attack.

"The detection of microscopic explosive traces alone does not allow the conclusion that TWA Flight 800 crashed as a result of an explosive device," the two agencies said in a joint statement, without suggesting any alternative explanation for the discovery.

Meanwhile, divers suspended their search for wreckage at the weekend because of heavy seas, churned up by the passing Hurricane Edouard. The storm threatened to make further salvage efforts impossible by dispersing the remaining 30 per cent of the plane still on the seabed.

Delhi: Mother Teresa, in intensive care in Calcutta with heart trouble and pneumonia, has developed a chest complication (Christopher Thomas writes).

Doctors said they were investigating a dark patch, shown up on X-rays, which was worrying but apparently not life-threatening. The 86-year-old nun has recovered from malaria and her fever has gone, but doctors at the Woodlands Nursing Home said she was not out of danger. "Cardiac irregularity is still present," a bulletin said.

Mitterrand aides seek to ban book

Paris: Two advisers to the late François Mitterrand have filed suits demanding the seizure of *The Elysée's Secret Wars*, published on Friday (Ben Macintyre writes). The book, by an ex-member of Mitterrand's anti-terrorist unit, alleges that he had used a "secret police force" to spy on enemies. Now Michel Charasse, a former minister, and Gilles Ménage, Mitterrand's former chief of staff, want the "defamatory" passages suppressed.

Phnom Penh: Khmer Rouge radio denied a report that its forces had killed Christopher Howes, the British mine disposal expert, who had been kidnapped along with his interpreter by the guerrillas in March. On Friday, the *Bangkok Post* quoted a Khmer Rouge officer as saying that Mr Howes had been killed on Thursday. (Reuters)

Kuala Lumpur: Rescuers toiling in mud-strewn debris and logs have found 23 dead after a huge landslide that swamped a remote aborigine village in Perak state in north Malaysia. At least 10 people are still missing from the disaster that struck the village of Pos Dipang on Thursday. (Reuter)

[illegible][illegible]

Does radon really increase the danger of cancer?

Risky rocks

PEOPLE who live in areas with high levels of radon gas are regularly alarmed by warnings that they are at risk of lung cancer. As measurements proceed, more and more areas fall into this category. But are the worries justified?

In May the Environment Department added another 100,000 houses to the "at-risk" list, in areas previously considered safe: Avon, Cumbria, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Wiltshire.

Radon is a radioactive gas produced by the decay of uranium in the rock. Studies of uranium miners certainly do show increased risks of lung cancer, but it is proving much harder to demonstrate that those risks also apply to householders who happen to live in an area where radon levels are high.

The latest report to cast doubt on radon comes from Dr Anssi Auvinen, of the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety. Published in July in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, it demonstrates no link between the incidence of lung cancer and radon levels in Finnish homes.

Finland has the highest levels of natural radioactivity in Europe, with an average annual exposure of eight millisieverts a year, four times that in the UK. The reason is that the country lies on granite bedrock, a plentiful source of radon. So if the alarms over radon are justified, we ought to see higher levels of lung cancer among Finns.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

This is just what Dr Auvinen didn't find. He compared 1,055 lung cancer cases with a control group of 1,544, and found there was no link with radon levels, which had been measured in their homes over 19 years. The radon levels found ranged as high as 370 Becquerels per cubic metre, almost double the "action level" of 200 set in Britain by the National Radiological Protection Board.

In Britain, a team from Bristol University published a study in the *European Journal of Cancer* in June of the incidence of cancer in Devon and Cornwall, matching 14 different types of cancer against average levels of radon, sorted by postcode. This, too, failed to show an association with lung cancer, though the method used cannot preclude such a risk for individual householders.

Behind the radon debate is a deeper one about whether there is a threshold below which radiation does no damage. The NRPB believes that no such threshold exists. "Low doses — even extremely low doses — do have an associated risk," says Dr John Stather, one of the authors of a major review of the topic published by the NRPB last year.

So why don't the population studies find such a risk? NRPB argues they do in the case of the atom bomb survivors — still by far the largest group ever followed. If they don't in the case of the Finnish population, it is because the excess risk is too small to be detected, given the size of the population sampled. The tool of epidemiology is simply too blunt to discern a difference.

A small step forward



THOUGH no dwarf, the artist Toulouze-Lautrec was odd-looking, with short legs and a big head. Scientists in New York and Boston have now identified a gene that may have been responsible.

The gene causes pycnodysostosis, a hereditary disease characterised by short stature, brittle bones, and skull deformities. The team studied an Israeli-Arab family with 16 affected relatives and a large Mexican family. They found that the gene responsible, which lies on chromosome 1, makes an enzyme called cathepsin K.

The discovery of the mechanism, they report in *Science*, has implications for the treatment of other conditions in which cathepsin K may be involved, including osteoporosis and some forms of arthritis.

"Now that we know the function of this specific gene, we can develop therapies to prevent or reverse the bone loss that occurs in some diseases," says Dr Robert Desnick, of Mount Sinai, a co-author of the study. Gene therapy or the use of inhibitors to the enzyme are two possibilities.

The damage of separation



INFANT rats separated from their mothers for just a single day are marked for life. Dutch researchers at the University of Nijmegen have found. When these rats are examined a few months after the one-day separation, their adrenal glands are larger, the concentration of corticosteroid hormones in their blood is higher, their immune response is reduced, and their reactions to stress last longer.

Such early experiences may therefore increase the risks of stress-related disorders in some individuals, the researchers believe. The evidence is that, in rats at least, early separation stimulates the adrenal gland — almost inactive when the mother is present — into producing high levels of corticosteroid hormones which then activate certain genes and create permanent changes in brain function.

Interestingly, the same changes do not occur when brief daily separations occur. Then the infant rats appear better able to cope with stress until an advanced age, and better able to learn.



Peter Gannicott with his parents: he retains his senses of touch, vision and hearing and the new treatment may make communication much easier

The power of thought

Will the paralysed be able to communicate with computers merely by thinking? Anjana Ahuja reports

In the split second it took for his motorcycle to ram into the side of a swerving car, Peter Gannicott was turned from a sports-mad 22-year-old into a mute quadriplegic, able only to blink and move his left eyebrow. When he wants to use his specially adapted home computer to spell out words, he wears clumsy metal spectacles which allow that single muscle to nudge a cursor up and down the screen.

If neurosurgeons at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford have their way, Peter will eventually be able to control his computer and other equipment by the power of thought

alone. Peter, now 36, volunteered to undergo a dramatic operation to link his brain directly to a computer via implanted electrodes. This would be a milestone that could open a breathtaking chapter in the field of neuroscience.

The idea, dreamt up by Professor Giles Brindley, Emeritus Professor of Physiology at London University, and Peter Teddy, the head of neurosurgery at the Radcliffe, is simple enough. When you decide to lift your arm, your brain fires electrical signals to your arm which triggers the lifting. In Peter's case, the signals will not make his arm move, because the communication network between his healthy brain and damaged body is faulty.

But, doctors reasoned, there is no reason why the same signals could not be used to operate a computer or another piece of electrical equipment. Mr Teddy explains: "When Peter thinks about raising his arm, we can use a battery of electrodes over part of his brain to pick up those signals. Then we can amplify them and change them into a signal which can be used by a computer. The idea is that just by thinking about raising his arm, Peter can move a cursor on the screen."

Peter, who managed a record shop in Walthamstow, Essex, was not expected to live after the accident. As a result of injury to the brain stem, he was paralysed, lost his speech and was dependent on a ventilator to breathe. He was not robbed of his mental faculties, and he retains his sense of touch, vision and hearing. An internal phrenic pacemaker, which "shocks" the diaphragm into breathing, has meant freedom from ventilator machines.

Peter has kept alive his interest in music, attending concerts with his elder brother and he also maintains his interest in cooking by dishing out kitchen instructions to his carers.

To communicate, the Gannicott family split the alphabet into four columns. Peter raises an eyebrow to acknowledge the correct column (for example, the letters A to G) and then again when the letter he wishes to select in that column is pointed out. Otherwise he spells out words on his computer screen. Whichever method he chooses, it is a cumbersome and tiring way to converse. Moving a cursor by thought would allow Peter to "talk" 40 times faster.

Peter's family first read about implants in *The Times* two years ago. His mother Betty recalls: "Peter saw it, and said 'I don't think it's possible, but I wonder if they could give me a blink?'"

Peter had lost the ability to blink, which meant his eyes were often dry and sore. Mrs

Gannicott says: "He asked me to find out if anyone could restore my blink with an implant. One of the people I wrote to was a doctor at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and he passed our letter to Mr Teddy."

Mr Teddy contacted Professor Brindley, who thought such an implant might be possible. The professor recalls seeing Peter turn up at his outpatient clinic: "When I saw him, I thought there was something much more exciting we could do. There was also a small risk that, had we done the blink implant, Peter could have lost the use of his eyebrow."

That was 18 months ago. Peter opted for the more ambitious operation, which he underwent in July. It was filmed by a team from the BBC programme *Tomorrow's World*.

First, multiple brain scans were taken to locate the primary motor cortex, the portion of the brain controlling movement. Once located, Mr Teddy bored a hole into Peter's scalp above the primary motor cortex. He placed 16 active and four inactive metal electrodes on the meninges, the protective shield which shrouds brain matter and the spinal cord. The inactive electrodes provide a reference point for measuring electrical activity. Next came the delicate and complex task of pushing the wires from these 20 electrodes underneath the skin from Peter's brain down to his right thigh. Along this brain-to-thigh route, the wires had to pass through different electronic components, turning Peter into a human circuit board.

The components included a device in the upper right chest to select certain signals, an amplifier in the lower right chest, an encoder in the lower abdominal wall and an electronic receiver in the right thigh. Mr Teddy fixed a transmitter on the outside of the right thigh, which in turn was linked by wire to a computer.

The risks involved in such a complicated procedure are surprisingly mundane. There is minimal risk of brain damage, since the operation involves laying electrodes onto the surface of, rather than inside, the brain. "With so many implants the main danger is infection, but that didn't happen," Mr Teddy says.

It helped that Peter was

determined to have the operation. In a characteristic flash of independence — rather than living with his parents, he lives in his own flat with full-time care — he told his hesitant mother: "It isn't your decision, mum."

So, did it work? The moment of truth came four days after the operation. Peter was asked to think about moving his right arm, while the neurosurgeons searched for an electrical signal. Mr Teddy says: "We got what appeared to be a reproducible signal but when we tried again a few days later, we couldn't trace it."

It turned out that the last component in the set-up, the encoder which converts the brain signal into a recognised computer signal, was hiccupping erratically. Peter will undergo a second operation on September 19 to correct it, and his progress will be monitored over the following weeks by *Tomorrow's World*.

If successful, an extensive

training period will follow. The act of willing limbs to move may result in weak signals for some limbs and strong, usable signals for others. For example, thinking about moving a finger might be the most effective.

Despite the setback, the mood is optimistic. Mr Teddy says: "The great thing about this is that ultimately we will get it right."

Professor Brindley believes that success will have further implications: "If a computer-controlled mechanical limb were attached to the wheelchair, Peter could control that just by thinking."

Could neurosurgeons somehow devise a way of sending those brain signals to one-useless limbs? Reversing paralysis in this way is a dream for now, Mr Teddy believes, because the number and complexity of signals between the brain and spinal cord is huge.

That is not a problem for Peter, according to his mother. "He has accepted that there isn't a miracle cure, and he's not looking for one. All he wants is to be able to join in life as much as he can."

Tomorrow's World, BBC1, Wednesday, 7.30pm.

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Mary Lefkowitz has outraged some academics by insisting that Socrates was Greek, says Michael Gove

The woman who defied political correctness

Political correctness may sometimes seem no more than a pompous term for politeness, but it can lead to persecution. Outside the barracks and away from the terracing it can appear only right to respect others' feelings by using appropriate language. However, across the Atlantic political correctness has seen not just language modified, but facts twisted in the name of feeling.

Thousands of students are being taught, in defiance of the evidence, that the roots of Western civilisation lie not in Greece, or even Israel, but Africa. "Afrocentric" teachers maintain that white scholars have covered up the debt Europe owed Africa for racist reasons. To restore black pride, students are told that Greece was an Egyptian colony, Greek philosophy merely borrowed African wisdom and the famous figures of the Ancient World, such as Socrates and Cleopatra, were black.

Few American academics had dared to take on the nonsense taught in the name of progress until a slight, 61-year-old classics don, Mary Lefkowitz, pointed out that these African emperors had no logos. In a book published earlier this year, *Not out of Africa*, the Wellesley College professor took a sledgehammer to the unwieldy garden of bogus scholarship.

Lefkowitz proves, in an accessible but impeccably argued fashion, that there is no credible evidence for Socrates and Cleopatra's "blackness". A snub nose in Socrates's case, and a mysterious grandmother in Cleopatra's, have been used as excuses to invent African roots for characters who could scarcely be more Greek. Evidence of Greek debts to Egyptian culture are shown to stem not from archaeology but an 18th-century French historical novel, *Sethos*, by Abbé Jean Terrasson. It is almost as though history courses on the Roman Empire used Asterix as primary source to accommodate bruised French feelings.

But by raising her voice for reason, Lefkowitz unleashed buried prejudices. Her criticisms of Afrocentrism were aired prior to the publication of her book in *The New Republic*, a Washington weekly some of whose executives are Jewish and friends of Lefkowitz. In an uncomfortable echo of the rhetoric of Louis Farrakhan and black extremists, African-American academics accuse her of lurking at the heart of a Jewish plot. Political correctness revived the spirit of Salem on a New England campus.

"I almost wish there were a Jewish conspiracy, it would have saved money on telephone calls," remarks Lefkowitz, toying with some humour as she reflects on her recent persecution. A trim woman in tweed and thin-rimmed Armani spectacles, she has an air at times of an academic from the pages of Alison Lurie, at others the sharpness and determination of a Wall Street attorney.

It was a visit by one of the most assertive Afrocentrists, Dr Yusef A.A. ben-Jochannan, to her own university that spurred Lefkowitz to action. Giving the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Lecture at Wellesley College, Dr ben-Jochannan asserted that Aristotle had "stolen" his philosophy from African thinkers whose works he had appropriated from the great library at Alexandria. Lefkowitz politely pointed out that the library had only been built after Aristotle's death.

She was shocked by the response. "Dr ben-Jochannan said he resented the tone of the inquiry, but he couldn't answer it. Several students accused me of racism afterwards and claimed I had been brainwashed."

When Lefkowitz committed her doubts to print she provoked a vicious reprisal. A colleague at Wellesley, Tony Martin, published a book, *The Jewish Onslaught: Dispatches from the Wellesley Battlefront*, which placed her at the heart of a Jewish cabal. Professor Molefi Kete Asante, of Temple University,



Mary Lefkowitz: African-American academics accuse her of lurking at the heart of a Jewish plot

contented himself with a simple accusation of "white racism".

Colleagues whom she hoped might rally to her defence, if not out of loyalty to her, then at least to the truth, were silent. "I was disappointed that some people who I expected to support me didn't and some did so only privately."

Others advised her to drop the whole thing. "People asked me, why does it matter to you? If these people feel better about themselves by believing all this, why not let them? But I couldn't do that."

I'm a scholar. I care about the truth. People seem to have forgotten how history was used in Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union for political purposes."

A desire to see scholarship defended motivated Lefkowitz, but so did concern for the fate of the students being misled. She was convinced students were not helped to succeed by being taught untruths, however comforting. As a self-styled "sociopolitical feminist", she draws parallels with the mistakes made by women who tried to rewrite history for

ideological feminist reasons. "They twisted the truth and blamed past inequalities on patriarchal oppression when what limited women's lives was their biology."

Lefkowitz thinks the real inequalities that blacks and women may suffer aren't overcome by trying to make them feel better, but by telling the truth. "What liberated women was science, not politics, what will help black students is knowledge, not attitudes."

In the face of furious criticism, Lefkowitz was tempted to retreat, but she

was encouraged to fight on by success in another, far more important, struggle.

Shortly after battle was first joined with the Afrocentrists, Lefkowitz contracted breast cancer. A course of chemotherapy allowed her to see the condition off but she was gravely ill for a year. "The treatment and the surgery were almost as violent as the disease," she recalls.

While recovering, she renewed her determination to argue her case, commenting: "I felt that the criticism I'd endured was nowhere near as bad as what I had just faced. I also felt that if my whole life as an academic hadn't been wrong, then this is what I must do."

Despite her difficulties, Lefkowitz has been emboldened to take her message across the Atlantic. *Not out of Africa* has not yet been published in the UK, unlike all her other books. Earlier works of classical criticism and history, which have sold far fewer copies in America than *Not out of Africa*, have appeared here. Publishers claim in their defence her quarrel is local, but Lefkowitz believes that even though the terrain is different in Britain, the underlying issues are similar.

"I can see in Britain some of the things I was fighting: relativism, lack of respect for the truth, the abuse of learning for political purposes. I'm delighted I've been able to interest people in the US in the Ancient World by showing its relevance to current debates. I'm sure there'd be a similar interest here."

Part of Lefkowitz's interest in showing Britons that modern-day battles can be fought on dusty Attic plains springs from her marriage to the English classics don Hugh Lloyd-Jones. He is a former Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford and Lefkowitz's critics detect Lloyd-Jones's hand behind her involvement in the American culture wars. Although one of the finest living scholars of Greek, he does not hold with all the values of democracy's birthplace. He supported the Greek colonels' coup and acted as senior member for the Oxford University Monday Club. Some believe Lefkowitz has been encouraged to belittle Black Studies by her High Tory husband.

But far from being manipulated by her husband, it is Lefkowitz who wears the chimos in their home. She met Lloyd-Jones professionally while already married and a mother of two. The Oxford don, who in the words of one colleague, "had worn the same jacket for 40 years", and who had been married himself for 28, was wooed away by Lefkowitz and they married in 1982.

Now in their Oxford home, it is Lefkowitz's influence that prevails, from the hand-stitched cushions with lines from Horace to the Ralph Lauren polo shirt that has replaced Lloyd-Jones's antique coat. It is a determination that has seen Lefkowitz through, that and the pull of the Classics reflected in her attraction to Lloyd-Jones. She won him, and is winning her battle because her first love is the life of the mind. As she admits: "It's just satisfying being with someone who cares as much about your subject as you do."

Don't look, it's another ad

IT USED TO be possible to avoid advertisements. As long as you didn't read newspapers and magazines, tune in to television and radio, look at hoardings and airships, or travel by public transport, it was feasible that you might never have known what eight out of ten cats prefer and

that eating ice-cream is apparently now part of the *Kama Sutra*. Blessed are the blind and mute, for it is only they who can now avoid the ubiquity of the advertisement. The other day, while filling my Renault 5, I was informed by a television screen hanging

from the roof that I should have been driving a BMW. I was also told that Kodak Gold was a very excellent camera film indeed—as good for my colours as the best detergents, which came next. I was grateful that my petrol tank is small, although a friend who drives a gas-guzzling Ford Granada had to tolerate an entire pop video.

This "service" is run by a company imaginatively called The Forecourt Channel Limited. According to an explanatory leaflet by the till, the organisation's aim is to make "the whole experience of filling your tank more relaxing and entertaining". They have a point.

squeezing a nozzle, like coalmining, is tough, boring work. According to one Rick Sheldon, of The Forecourt Channel (or FC, as we forecourt surfers call it), the channel will not just be showing advertisements. "There will be other editorial as well," he says, "such as traffic info, as well as information telling you not to smoke on the forecourt or drink and drive."

All this enlightenment will be funded by advertising, and thus, despite the good-meaning Mr Sheldon's protestations that "it's not just about ads", the British public will be hounded by admen in yet another arena. The Forecourt Channel, bless its innocence, is merely to be a packhorse for the pedlars.

So where does it end? Post offices, petrol stations, even napkins—all now bear advertisements. Is nowhere sacred? An obvious example is the graveyard, although it must be inevitable that as long as you display the logo

above your name, you will be able to get your headstone free from McDonald's. Vicars might have their sermons sponsored by car accessory companies. Thus, "you can't get quicker than a Kwik-Fit vicar". Pavements might be emblazoned with the British Telecom logo and the advice "It's good to walk".

These are extremes, certainly, but if anybody told me a year ago that advertising would become an essential part of filling my car, then I would have laughed him off the planet.

The planet? The extraterrestrials we have been hearing so much about will

presumably become an "emerging market", so perhaps we could deck out entire continents in posters telling where on Earth good food costs less.

It must be possible to check the march of advertising. However, we may not need to, as the industry's expansion onto our forecourts and into our waiting rooms may lead to its self-destruction.

UBIQUITY will mean a lowering in quality, and in Britain, where we regard our adverts as art forms, this will be a disaster to the advertising industry. We are a sophisticated audience, and the American-style two-a-dime adverts that will inevitably result will largely go unnoticed. Then, hopefully, advertising may shrivel.

The message to advertisers is this: less is more. The message to motorists is just watch the pump, fill your tank, and keep your eyes on the road—that's if they're still clear.

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While, to an outsider, Jacqueline Bouvier's early life seemed an idyllic one, the reality

The wayward father she adored

Until recently, Jackie Onassis's childhood and adolescence remained private. These years are now revealed by her first cousin, John Davis



JACQUELINE BOUVIER

an intimate memoir

To behold the family of Mr and Mrs John Vernou Bouvier III in the summer of 1936 was to admire what appeared to be, on the surface, one of the most fortunate and attractive upper-class families on Long Island. Jack, now 45 but still handsome and in good physical shape, Janet, a slim, youthful 28, Jacqueline, a bright, captivating child of seven, and pretty little four-year-old Lee. Despite giving the outward appearance of being a happy, united family, the John V. Bouvier IIIs were suffering unbearable domestic tensions.

While Janet remained in East Hampton all week, relentlessly training Jacqueline in horsemanship so that mother and daughter would never be outclassed by other women in their age groups — which, as it turned out, they never were — Jack would be in Manhattan, trading on the floor of the Stock Exchange all day and then heading uptown to relax at the Westbury Hotel's Polo Lounge.

There, at cocktail hour, some of the most beautiful young women in the city would congregate and ultimately "the Black Prince" would succeed in luring one of these beauties up to the duplex at 740 Park Avenue.

Word of Jack's philandering inevitably filtered back to Janet, and she would fly into uncontrollable rages when Jack returned to East Hampton on Friday evenings. This contrasted with the shouts of joy from Jacqueline and Lee as their father showed up at Wildmoor's front door: "Daddy! Daddy! We missed you so much."

Janet had been aware for some time of her daughters' preference for their father, and it further enraged her. She had a violent and uncontrollable temper.

Years later, during the divorce proceedings, Bertha Kimmie, the Bouvier children's governess known as Mademoiselle, gave this sworn statement about Janet's temper:

"Mrs Bouvier was a lady of quick temper which she showed many times toward Mr Bouvier and which many times she showed toward the

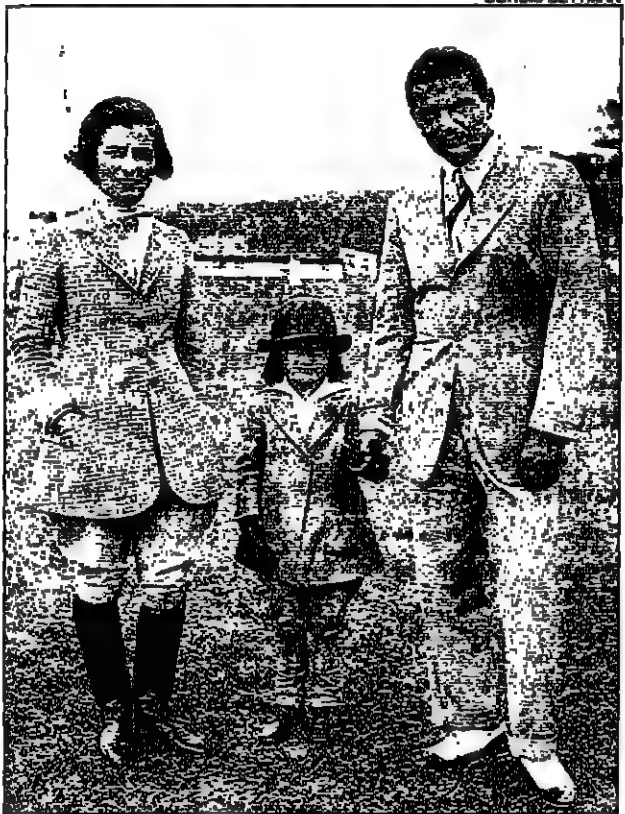
children. Indeed, I had not been in their home more than ten days when Mrs Bouvier gave Jacqueline a very severe spanking because the little girl had been too noisy at her play. She would spank Jacqueline quite frequently and became often irritated with the child, but for no reason that I was able to see.

"On Sunday, September 26, Mrs Bouvier called her father over to the house. I could gather that she was mad because Mr Bouvier had not, while in town, gotten himself a

so debonair, he drove fast sports cars, and he bought expensive dogs and clothes for his girls. Saturday nights there would always be a dinner dance at the Devon Yacht Club and Jack would take Jacqueline and dance with his daughter, much to her joy and the crowd's delight.

Despite her parents' bickering, Janet's temper tantrums, and Janet's bitter rivalry with Jack for the attention and affection of her daughters, Jacqueline's innate emotional and physical strength at the

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Jacqueline with her parents, Janet and Jack Bouvier

lawyer for some purpose. I do know when the three, that is, Mr Bouvier, Mr Lee, and Mrs Bouvier, were together, in a very noisy argument, little Jacqueline rushed upstairs to me and said 'Look what they are doing to my Daddy!' and at the time, Jacqueline was in tears."

Janet was at a clear disadvantage in relation to Jack when it involved maintaining Jacqueline's loyalty and affection. Being with Daddy was an exciting adventure. He was

young age of seven was sufficient not to let her unhappy home life get the better of her. She continued to ride her horses far better than other girls her age, she did very well in her winter ballet lessons, and she was consistently an above-average student at school, far better than her father or future husband had been at her age. About the only indication that something was amiss was her extreme mischievousness and unmanageability at school.

At Miss Chapin's, a private and expensive day school in New York for children of wealthy and influential parents, the headmistress, Miss Ethel Stringfellow, was forced to scold and lecture the young Jacqueline more than any other girl in her class. Over-criticised and nagged at by her mother, overpraised and over-indulged by her adoring father, and continually driven to tears by her parents' incessant quarrels, Jacqueline responded to Miss Stringfellow, who managed to calm her down and teach her how to persevere.

Still, it came as a rude shock when, at the end of the summer of 1936, Jacqueline was told that her mother and father were going to separate. The separation agreement went into effect on October 1, 1936, and stipulated that "the parties agree to live separate and apart from each other for the period of six months from the date of this agreement."

After the catastrophe of the separation agreement, Jacqueline became uncharacteristically withdrawn. At Bouvier family gatherings during the winter of 1936-37, Jacqueline's Bouvier aunts, uncles and cousins began to sense an embarrassed, evasive air, as if she were ashamed of something. Of course, we all asked "Where's Aunt Janet?" Lane excuses were made for her absence from the Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts, but, by Easter 1937, we all knew something had gone terribly wrong in Jacqueline's household. At those times she would nestle up to her father, as if to say: "Well, I've still got him."

The six-month separation agreement between Jack and Janet, which resulted in making all parties even more miserable than they had been before, ended on March 31, 1937. Shortly afterwards Jack convinced Janet that, for the good of their daughters, they should try to live together again in East Hampton during the coming summer season. Jack rented a modest house on the dunes and, as soon as Jacqueline got out of school, he took the family to their new summer quarters.

But in another sworn statement Bertha Kimmie said: "I had been in the home of Mr and Mrs Bouvier for barely a week when I could not help but notice that the relations between the two were strained and irritable... She was a lady that unmistakably had a will, and was generally engaged in doing what she wanted, when she wanted and where she wanted."

"On the other hand, Mr Bouvier was left in his own house quite alone, but his love for the children, and their very joyous love for him, I could easily see. Both were devoted to him, and both sought his company whenever it was possible. This was particularly so in the case of Jacqueline."

"Whether it was lack of sympathy on the mother's part, or indifference, or because she was occupied with other thoughts, I do not pretend to say, but I did notice a certain reserve when the children were in the presence of their mother that they never showed when in the presence of their father."

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Janet would fly into rages when Jack returned

near Central Park where the three would spend several hours horseback riding along the cinder track surrounding the reservoir. Then he would take them back to the Westbury for club sandwiches in the Polo Lounge, where he would enjoy the admiring glances the patrons and waiters would give his charming little girls.

When Janet returned from her weekend jaunts, her life was made unintentionally miserable by her girls telling her what a wonderful time they had had with Daddy.

At summer's end, Mr Lee, a forceful man who detested Jack Bouvier, decided to take his daughter's marital troubles into his own hands and settled them into a smaller rental flat at 1 Grace Square.

It was a desperately unhappy situation for all concerned. For Jack Bouvier, his daughters were his life. They alone gave his life meaning and made the daily grind on Wall Street worthwhile. And, for Jacqueline and Lee, their father was the centre of their existence, the person they loved more than anyone else in the world.

For Janet, Jack Bouvier stood between her and her daughters as well as in the way of a new life. If she could divorce Jack Bouvier, and

remarry, she could then take the children away from their father once and for all.

From a legal standpoint, the only grounds for absolute divorce in New York at that time were adultery. Janet and her father concocted what they thought was an ingenious plot to trap Jack in an adulterous situation. They hired detectives to keep Jack Bouvier under observation night and day. They even hired a certain "Scandinavian blonde" to entice him into bed.

Janet's reckless publishing of the particular unfounded charges of adultery against her husband caused serious damage to Jack Bouvier's reputation in New York. It had a devastating effect on their two daughters as well. At Miss Chapin's School, Jacqueline

For Jack Bouvier, his daughters were his life

had to put up with the snickers of her schoolmates. She suddenly was the daughter of a black sheep, a man in disrepute, an adulterer. From now on, she craved one thing: respectability, and rehabilitation of her family's image.

Later, Janet, her father and their lawyers were unable to make their sensational charges stick, and the suit for divorce on the ground of adultery was eventually dropped. Although the charges had been published nationwide, their dismissal had not.

Jack was so humiliated and outraged he agreed to a quickie Nevada divorce. As soon as she could, Janet flew off to Reno with the children.

Meanwhile, Jack Bouvier was pining for his beloved daughters, especially Jacqueline.

line. By the summer of 1940, Jack's love for his daughter Jacqueline had become an obsessive passion.

At Bouvier family gatherings, it was almost embarrassing to hear Jack extol Jacqueline's qualities before everyone. To see Jack and Jacqueline strolling along Park Avenue arm in arm was to behold two lovers who delighted in each other's company. As Jack wrote to Jacqueline at the "A" Bar Ranch in Reno, only she gave him the feeling his life was "worthwhile living". Jacqueline reciprocated this closeness without reserve or embarrassment. I never saw her try to conceal the deep love she had for her father.

Jack Bouvier could emotionally afford to live the life he led after his divorce — unmarried, but with a harem of young girls at his beck and call — because he didn't need one steady love in his life. He already had one — Jacqueline.



Bright and captivating — Jacqueline aged four, the youngest member of John V. Bouvier III's family

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was the agony of a broken home, and a rift that would mar the day of her marriage

Why 'Black Jack' was kept away from the wedding of the year

The marriage of Jacqueline Bouvier and John F. Kennedy affected many people in many different ways.

Jackie's mother, Janet, was delighted with the marriage, for the Kennedys were just the sort of big game — "the real money" — she had been after for her daughter. For Black Jack Bouvier, the marriage promised to wrench Jackie firmly away from Janet and her second husband, Hugh D. Auchincloss (known by the family as Hughie).

On June 24, Auchincloss held an engagement party for Jacqueline and Jack, and an official announcement of their engagement was sent to the press. Jack Bouvier had pointedly not been invited, and he was deeply offended by this snub. By then Jacqueline had become a captive of the Auchinclosses and the Kennedys had no say in the matter.

Jack Bouvier had already been working on his tan at weekends in East Hampton, where he had rented a cottage for the summer. Still trim and handsome at 62, with his jet black hair intact except for a splash of silver at his temples, he had planned to cut a dashing figure at Jackie's engagement party. Now he would have to wait for the main event on September 12, when he would give Jackie away to her groom in style.

Planning well ahead, Black Jack visited his tailor, Tripler's in New York, to get fitted for the cutaway he was going to wear at Jackie's wedding. It was to be the biggest role in his life — father of the bride at the wedding of the year.

Yes, when he took his beloved Jacqueline down the aisle of St Mary's, he was going to show the world — the press, Newport society, the Auchinclosses, the Kennedys and Janet — just who Jackie's real father was.

Meanwhile, for Jack Kennedy, the wedding had become just as much a political campaign as a family event. There were myriad events: a big bachelor dinner in Boston, a weekend-long house party for the bridesmaids and ushers, and a huge bridal dinner the night before the wedding, hosted by Ambassador and Mrs Joseph P. Kennedy.

Alone in his draft bachelor quarters at 125 East 74th Street, Jack Bouvier waited and waited for the invitations to these events. They never came.

Jack had not expected to be asked to the bachelor dinner given by Joe Kennedy in Boston, but he definitely expected to be invited to the bridal dinner the night before the wedding. After all, he was the father of the bride, a bride he had brought up, educated, and supported for 24 years, and he had every right to be

accorded a place of honour at these celebrations.

What Jack should have realised, but didn't, was that Janet was dead set on excluding him from everything, for she was still insanely jealous of her daughters' love for their father, their preference for him over her.

As the bridal dinner approached, Jack Bouvier packed his bags and travelled to Newport, where he put up at the Viking Hotel. On arriving he telephoned Jacqueline at Hammersmith Farm, the Auchincloss estate, to let her know he was eagerly awaiting the festivities.

He spent his time making sure his wardrobe would be in perfect shape, his trousers sharply pressed, his shoes immaculately shined. Then he waited for his invitation.

What went on over the telephone between the Viking Hotel and Hammersmith Farm during this period is not known. Jack Bouvier was not invited to the bridal dinner and he crushed him. He was not even given a chance to see Jackie the day before her wedding. Janet's secretary screened all incoming calls: "No, Miss Bouvier is not available at the moment." "No, I'm sorry but Mrs Auchincloss has gone out for a while." "No, I don't know when she'll be back." Jack Bouvier went to bed that night deeply offended.

September 12, 1953, turned out to be an almost perfect day.

Jacqueline was dressing for her wedding without knowing who would take her down the aisle. Jackie wanted very much to be given away by her real father. But her strong-willed mother would not consent to that. She wanted her daughter to be given away by Hugh D. Auchincloss.

While Jack Bouvier was dressing for the wedding, my mother, Maude and her twin, Michelle, and their husbands, John E. Davis and Harrington Putnam, were busily getting themselves ready. The plan was for my father and Mr Putnam to pick Jack up at the Viking, take him to get the twins, and then have all five

Jack Bouvier was proudly looking forward to giving his daughter away.

Instead, Jackie walked down the aisle on the arm of her stepfather as her father was held prisoner in his hotel room



Jackie pictured on the day of her marriage

Jacqueline found herself torn between the demands of the Kennedys' thirst for publicity and her own personal emotions — her deep love for her father.

She had to contend with all those reporters, gossip columnists, political commentators and photographers Joe Kennedy had invited to the wedding. Could she take the risk of having a Jack Bouvier on her arm, who couldn't walk a straight line, down the centre aisle of St Mary's?

While Jacqueline was putting the finishing touches on her wedding outfit, my father and Uncle Put were still attempting to gauge Jack's condition. They noticed Jack drain his highball as he tried to work his tie into his high, stiff collar. Soon he was going over to the ice bucket to prepare another drink.

They had to decide whether Jack Bouvier was fit to perform his duties. They concluded that, although he had had a few drinks, he was by no means drunk and could, in all probability, guide Jackie down the aisle. As a precaution, Harrington Putnam took the bottle of Scotch off Jack's dresser and hid it in the closet.

My mother and my aunt continued

to be assailed by hysterical calls from Hammersmith Farm. Janet demanded to know if Jack had been drinking. My mother tried to minimise the situation: she conceded that Jack had had "one or two sips" but was OK. He was by no means intoxicated; he was steady on his feet and in a good mood.

"I don't care," snapped Janet. "We don't want him at the wedding even if he had only a couple of sips."

"But John and Put believe he can perform," my mother emphasised.

"I don't care," cried Janet. "Don't dare bring him. If you do, Jackie and I will never speak to you again."

Matters had now reached a critical stage for all concerned. Jack, who had almost completed dressing, began to rail

against Janet for how she had excluded him from all the pre-nuptial events, especially the bachelor dinner given for members of the family.

Finally Jack was fully dressed, and my father later told me, looked splendid. Although his tongue was a little thick, he was coherent and both physically and mentally up to the duties he was to perform at St Mary's. My father phoned his opinion to my mother who, in turn, relayed it to Janet at Hammersmith Farm.

Janet would hear none of it. Hugh was now dressed and ready to give Jackie away. They were all losing time and before long they would have to

leave for St Mary's. The limousine was already parked outside the front door with its engine running. If the twins brought Jack Bouvier with them, Janet would not let them in the church door and there might be a scene. "Keep him there," Janet urged. "Don't let him out of his room... even for one second."

The twins had no choice but to accede to Janet's wishes. They phoned the Viking and told their husbands to prevent Jack from leaving his room. Both my father and Harrington Putnam remonstrated, insisting that Jack was in good shape. After a heated argument, the two men gave in and so my father and Uncle Put, reduced to being Jack Bouvier's guardians, missed the wedding and the reception at Hammersmith Farm.

Janet had won. She now had the wedding the way she had wanted it, with her husband, Hugh D. Auchincloss, taking her daughter down the centre aisle. Jackie was, of course, deeply disappointed and very worried about her father. But she could do nothing. Jackie was no longer her own master. She had become an unwilling pawn of her mother's animosity toward Jack Bouvier and, more important, was already a tool, an instrument, of the Kennedys' relentless political machine. From now on, she had no choice other than to do what was beneficial for the Kennedy image.

As Jacqueline made her way towards the altar and her bridegroom, she radiated a serene beauty that captivated the congregation. Very few people, only members of the Bouvier family and their friends, noted that she was not on the arm of her father.

© Jacqueline Bouvier: An Intimate Memoir by John F. Davis, to be published by John Wiley and Sons, £19.99 on October 10.



Jackie with her father, the still trim, handsome and debonair Jack Bouvier in 1947

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■ PROMS

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CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



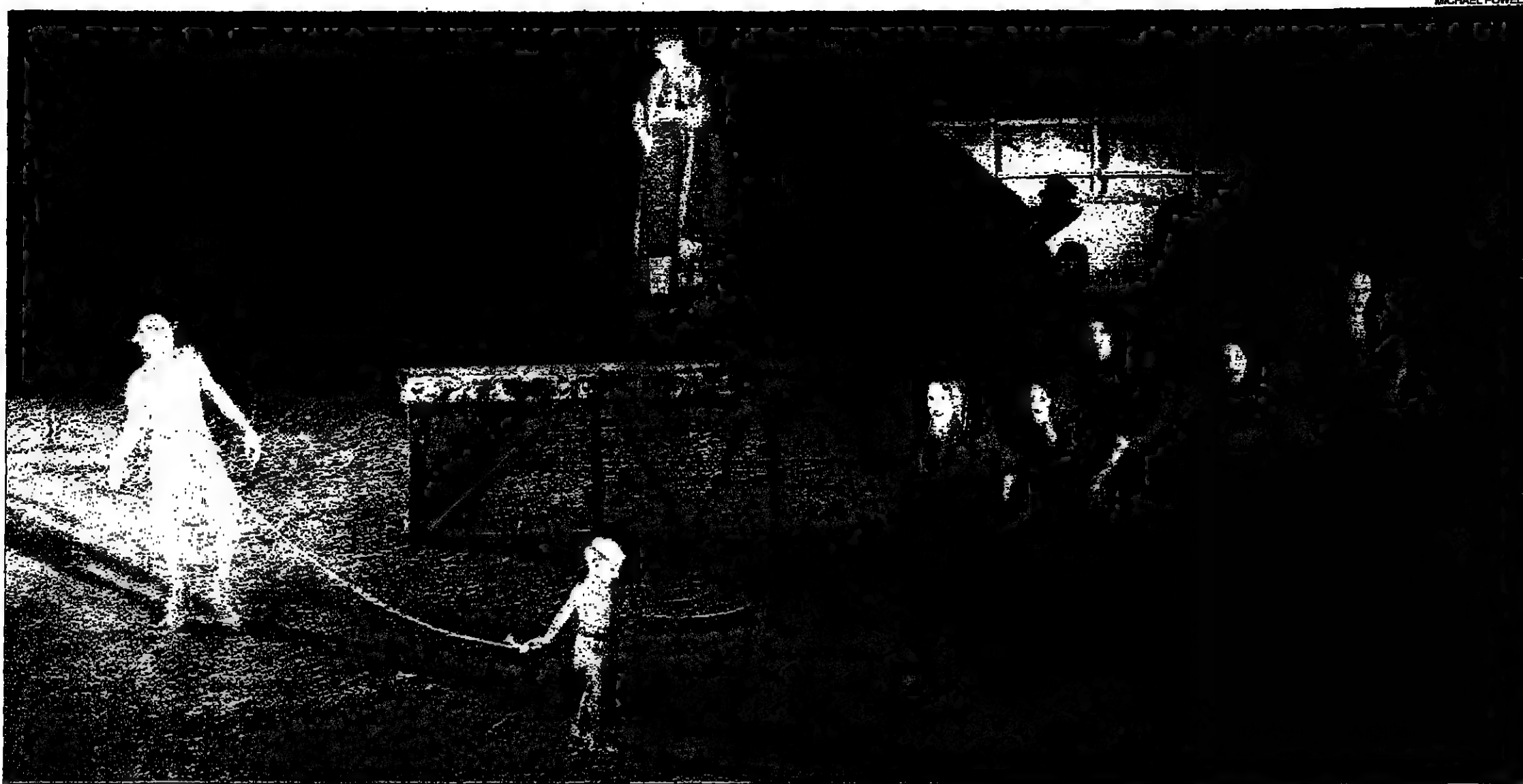
■ OPERA

David Freeman takes Opera Factory to the South Bank for *The Magic Flute*
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ JAZZ

Cream of the cornets: Ruby Braff plays at Pizza Express in Dean Street
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



The National Theatre makes history: Sir Peter Hall's staging of Sophocles's *The Oedipus Plays*, performed on Saturday night before an audience of 10,000 in the Ancient Greek theatre of Epidauros

Oedipus goes home

Peter Stothard watched as the National Theatre took Sir Peter Hall's staging of Sophocles to the heart of Ancient Greece

The history of the theatre is spattered with attempts to isolate the spirit of its Ancient Greek beginning. On Saturday night in Epidauros, on a long, narrow, red, raked stage that stretched from a circle of sand to a distant backdrop of pine trees, Sir Peter Hall's National Theatre company won itself a spectacular place in that history.

The essential problem is familiar. The tragedies that were written for the religious festivals of 5th-century Athens became the fundament for all subsequent European theatre: if that had not been the case these plays by Sophocles would be of only scholastic interest today. Yet the choruses, masks and rituals which power these plays come from a society that was fundamentally different from our own.

At the heart of Greek tragedy is an enormous power. Directors and actors risk becoming like astronomers in search of the Big Bang: the closer they come to the origins of their subject, the greater the turbulence and distortion.

Sir Peter Hall is a man long tempted by the pursuit of tragic purity. For his first National Theatre production since his departure as director in 1988, he has chosen Sophocles's *Oedipus the King*, the play which Aristotle designated the most perfect tragedy of all. He has

drilled his cast into a rigorous and rhythmic delivery, powerfully reflective of an age when metre, more than writing, was the general means of memory.

He has given huge attention to the effect upon the actors of wearing their white-on-white or sand-against-blood coloured masks. He has directed almost every speech to be delivered out to the participating audience and not in to the other actors. And he brought the final rehearsals and first performance to Epidauros, the Greek town whose ancient theatre he has made almost a second theatrical home.

Yet Peter Hall is not too ambitious a purist. He is a realist about what works before an audience and what does not. Dionysis Fotopoulos's plague-blighted landscapes, studded with oldrum fires and dead cattle, do not take us back quite as far as the theatre's Big Bang. Indeed, much of the immense emotional pull of *The Oedipus Plays* (*Oedipus the King* and its later sequel, *Oedipus at Colonus*), comes from later more liberating spirits, many of them from Epidauros itself.

Despite the enthusiastic claims of the National Theatre press release, Epidauros is not the place where Sophocles's plays were originally performed. Its colossal theatre, which held a rapt audience of almost 10,000 on Saturday, was not built till at least the end of the 4th century BC. It represents a time when tragedy was still in touch with its roots but when its branches were beginning their climb into the broader culture of the West.

The stone terraces, which so strain the backsides of modern sitters, were laid down only when the great 5th-century Athenian playwrights were dead. If these stones could speak they would remember more of the spectacular than of the religious, of men rather than gods, the universal rather than the patriotic. Every performance here of the *Oedipus* plays in the past 2,000

years has been a revival. The original 5th-century production in Athens would not have had a place for a star like Alan Howard, whose silky-toned *Oedipus* here was one of those rare glories of an actor's art. But in 4th-century Epidauros the star-system was already setting in. Sacred texts were being cut to suit the whim of such pioneer prima donnas as the famed Theodorus, who would not allow any other actor to come on stage before he did. Masks were still worn but had probably lost their early thrill.

Gestures, too, were beginning to be of the kind that a National Theatre cast would recognise. A vase painting survives in Syracuse which shows the scene where Oedipus, Jocasta and their children learn almost the last bit of proof about the

family's murderous and incestuous ties. When the hero finds that his efforts to evade the prophecy of his birth have failed (he has killed his father and married his mother) and that his efforts to discover the truth have succeeded all too well, he shows his anguish with one hand against his chin and the other dug into his hip. Jocasta cups a narrow hand against her pure white cheek. The messenger looks away and bends behind a yoke's cloak. This compulsive moment — easily recognisable in Alan Howard and Suzanne Bertish's relationship on the Epidauros stage — is a living link from their world to ours.

These two *Oedipus* plays — the first conceived in days of greatness and hope for Athens before the Peloponnesian War and the second in the dark days of defeat 30 years later — were far apart in original tone and style. But in revival, despite awkward differences in some of the characters who appear in both, they have become a popular pairing.

They are plays without active gods — a big benefit for modern

audiences. Greg Hicks's serpentine prophet Tiresias, whose divine message is delivered with rather too much pelvic thrust, was one of the least convincing elements. These are dramas of active people with fatal drives and emotions like our own. Alan Howard's measured tenor voice and sliding arm motions (amazing in themselves from a man who broke his right wrist at the dress rehearsal) become gradually more puppet-like; but he is never an automaton in the full grip of fate.

Peter Hall has reached as close to the heart of these plays — their themes of crumbling vision and concentrated pride — as I ever expect to be taken. With a few changes to some obvious points of bathos in Ranjit Bolt's translation, this distillation of the tragic spirit should be good for a long time.

The audience's final pity is skilfully concentrated upon those most universal of all its recipients, the children. For the blinded Oedipus Tyrannos, his miserable offspring are the way of leading us from one man's suffering to the suffering of all. For the dying Oedipus at Colonus they are his guides into the hands of gods who may just be within his and our understanding — but more likely are not.

They are plays without active gods — a big benefit for modern

Life of a one-act wonder

FOR a dramatist the life of Sean O'Casey has serious structural problems, chiefly the conspicuous absence of a second act. After creating the Abbey Theatre's first blockbuster with *The Shadow of a Gunman* in the early 1920s and completing his celebrated Dublin trilogy within a few years, O'Casey's star went into a fitful 40-year decline.

This story may not be true but it has a surprising tenacity. It is also a version of events that makes *Song at Sunset*, the O'Casey Theatre Company's one-man celebration of the playwright's life and works at the Foyle Arts

THEATRE

Song at Sunset Derry

Centre, more than a little problematic.

Siobhan O'Casey, who adapted and directed the piece, has no trouble uncovering dramatic material for the first half of the evening, in which the working-class Dubliner becomes politicised and, inspired by the work of George Bernard Shaw, starts to write plays. By the time O'Casey has moved to England and his play *The Silver Tassie* has been rejected by W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory, however, the years start to race by in search of a grand, history-shaping moment.

Niall Buggy, whose task it is to knit together the colourful and the more prosaic portions of O'Casey's life, goes some way to balancing the two. He delivers a shrewdly rounded O'Casey, gobbling up wide-eyed scenes from the writer's childhood and easing his way impressively into a stiffer, melancholic old age.

Buggy's erect, stentorian version of Yeats striding on to the Abbey stage following the literally riotous reception of O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* is a mixture of endearing indignation and pure pomposity, while GBS has a seductive tone of formality blended with chumminess.

Barring split seconds of uncertainty, the performance has everything required to create a fine evening with O'Casey. If only the writer had shaped his biography more carefully.

LUKE CLANCY

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Pina Bausch's classic Gluck staging; mixed blessings from the Cleveland Orchestra

Not the whole tale

The Edinburgh Festival ended as it had begun, with a danced Gluck opera. Mark Morris's *Orfeo* mixed singers and dancers on stage; Pina Bausch's *Iphigenie* is a straight dance interpretation, with dancers alone in charge of the stage, singers at least in this manifestation — placed in stage boxes, chorus relegated to the orchestra pit. I write "this manifestation" because Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal staging has been around for some time now. The programme was curiously coy (ie. silent) on the subject of just how long, but there have been reported sightings for more than twenty years. It has acquired the status of near-classic, but there was nothing tired or second-hand about Friday's well-prepared, powerfully executed performance. The production's age and durability should have been something to boast about.

The text that Bausch interprets is, as the title suggests, the revision that Gluck himself made for a production in Vienna in 1781: the German translation necessitated many changes of detail. Orestes was turned into a tenor and — most radical — Iphigenie's great Lament at the end of the second act was cut and replaced by a short orchestral elegy. Here we had both *O malheureuse Iphigenie*, or part of it, and the elegy, so a certain musical flexibility was being practised, in which case it seemed perverse to cut all the Paris dance music as well. What was heard did not accord with the English translation of the Paris libretto printed in the programme, and there were some peculiarly brutal, un-Gluckian cuts. Again, we were not being told



Powerful performance: *Iphigenie* is a straight dance interpretation, with dancers alone in charge of the stage

OPERA

Iphigenie auf Tauris Festival Theatre

the whole story. Indeed, we were not being told the story at all: there was no synopsis, and those unfamiliar with either the opera or the manifold misfortunes of the House of Atreus might have found it hard to puzzle out what was going on.

The title role is almost as great a gift for a dancer as for a singer, and Malou Airaud agonised to grand classical effect. An advantage of the medium is that the relationship of Orestes and Pylades can be suggested more tenderly by dancers (Dominique Mercy and Bernd Marszan) than it might be by any Two of the Three Tenors, and Bausch, like Gluck, develops this into a

really interesting eternal triangle with Iphigenie. The only lapse comes at the end: the moment of brother-sister recognition goes for little, there is no battle, Diana fails to appear, and Thaos survives. Iphigenie and Pylades are paired in the final walkdown — food for thought there.

The danger with danced opera is that musical values get short shrift, a danger entirely avoided here. Christine Brewer sang Iphigenie with opulent, gleaming tone and breadth of phrase, if in somewhat cloudy German. William Kendall (Orestes) and Peter Bröndler (Pylades) were first-rate in this and every other respect, and David Barrell thundered effectively as Thaos. The conductor Jan Michael Horstmann coaxed alert playing and singing from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the excellent Scottish Opera Chorus in a bright, springy reading.

RODNEY MILNES

THE Festival's official culmination was the 150th anniversary performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the very last concert in the Usher Hall. Personal culminations might have been as different as Rameau authentically performed in the same hall the day before, the revelation of the unassuming beauty of Reynaldo Hahn's Verlaine settings in Ann Murray's recital with Graham Johnson — the majority choice, surely — the confirmation of the superior quality of the Cleveland Orchestra under the direction of Christoph von Dohnányi.

It is a great partnership in nearly every way but above all in the conductor's relationship with his strings, which play for him with the unanimity and the security and at the same time the flexibility of a chamber ensemble. That is presumably why he chose to open the first concert with Mahler's arrangement for string orchestra of Beethoven's String Quartet in F minor, Op. 95.

But that is not why Mahler wrote it: the whole point, which Dohnányi missed, is the intensely dramatic orientation of the original. It was beautifully played but benignly, more as a genial demonstration of the sweetness of the Cleveland strings than as a reflection of the dynamic energy Mahler found and hoped to emphasise in the Beethoven original.

There was a similar case of self-indulgence in the interpretation of Mahler's Fifth Symphony. If the second movement sounds relaxed rather than tortured and if its D major chorale emerges as broad as it ought to be at the end of the finale, the whole thing becomes no more than a concerto for orchestra — entertaining though it might be. Dohnányi's interpretation of

Spoilt for choice

CONCERTS

Brahms's First Symphony in the second Cleveland concert, on the other hand, was unrelentingly serious, unfailingly idiomatic and unquestionably convincing. It was a pity about Alfred Brendel's little memory lapse in the last movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto in C major but, with a highly atmospheric *Unanswered Question* to begin with, the concert was remarkable throughout for its structural and stylistic perceptions.

Music from Rameau's *Les Fêtes d'Hébé*, delightfully executed by Frans Bruggen and the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century on French Baroque instruments, was just what was needed in Edinburgh after its prolonged overindulgence on the Viennese classics. The Festival's tenden-

cy to overdo things was one reason why Ian Bostridge's account of Schubert's *Winterreise*, which Peter Schreier sang here only last year, was not the experience it might have been. Another was that, for all the intelligence and integrity of Bostridge's performance with Graham Johnson, even in the comparative intimacy of the Queen's Hall it was limited in colour and expressive nuance.

Even so, that was an outstanding event in a series of morning concerts particularly interesting, as always in a McMaster festival, for its voices. Michelle DeYoung came to Edinburgh a little too early in what is going to be a valuable mezzo-soprano career, but there was the developed artistry of Renée Fleming and Ann Murray to compensate. Indeed, the whole charm of these morning concerts is their unpredictability. Christian Zacharias's sometimes maddening and sometimes revelatory recital of Debussy and Bach preludes (without the fugues) is the kind of thing that keeps anticipation keenly, if apprehensively, alive.

GERALD LARNER

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Matthew Parris



What do you mean, exploitation? If people are old enough to make up their minds, good luck to them

There is no better time to write about a subject than during a wave of public alarm over it, and no worse time. Attention is guaranteed, but to what? Proportion is lost, and once a category is invented by the media for what are often only very loosely related incidents — "road rage", "the menace of stalkers" — the brain goes fuzzy and we lose the faculty for distinguishing the serious from the trivial.

On what amounted to *The Times*'s paedophile page last Thursday, two articles with dreadful news from Belgium plus yet another photograph of M. Dutroux's garden were coupled, by association, with Roger Moore's Cub-Scout recollections of someone walking into his tent. Alongside this miscellany — bathed in the reflected glow of media indignation over any report containing, in reasonable proximity, the word "sex" and the word "child" — was a report from Stockholm headlined "European widows exploit Sri Lanka teenagers for sex".

Since I want to wish both the European widows and the Sri Lankan teenagers good luck in their endeavours, I had better say that I do not advocate a tolerant view of the murder of little girls; but it is a pity I need to. The issues are unconnected.

Remove, then, the Sri Lankan report from the context of other obscenities on that page, and consider it alone. Like much journalism, it crumbles on inspection. The "teenagers" turn out to be "boys between 16 and 19, hawking shells or ornaments", and the "exploitation" is the seduction of younger men by older women who lavish upon them "gifts of watches, clothes, radios and TVs", later sending them air tickets to visit them in Europe. It is not suggested that the youths fly to Europe under any kind of duress. On the contrary.

Well, bully for them, I say, and for the ladies too. Good heavens, if any gift-lavishing golden girl had offered to fly me around the world when I was 16 or 17, she might have turned me straight. A Rolex watch you say, madam? A new jogging suit? A radio and television too? An air ticket to Hamburg? Carry on my dear, exploit me all you wish.

Had any of the lemon-faced grundles and professional outrage manufacturers who stalk the international conference circuit these days ever been to a Third World country — outside their conference Hiltons, that is? Have they any understanding of the hunger for gadgets, foreign travel, excitement — anything that will lift a young man or woman not so much from poverty as from the confinement of 17th-century life in a 20th-century world?

Having to clean toilets can be just as exploitative and damaging as sex

side the context of a loving relationship must damage any human being. In this they are simply wrong. As with many of the lawful things we may do for reward, whether or not we are damaged depends upon context and upon the people concerned. Cleaning someone's toilet "outside the context of a loving relationship" may damage too. A life of child-bearing drudgery as a peasant's wife may damage. I am prepared to leave the choice between greater and lesser damages to the connoisseurs of sex, for I have observed that many people, including some quite young people, have a cheerful, casual attitude to sex.

But on the international conference circuit, Victorian prudishness meets modern progressive in prudish embrace. Both have an exaggerated regard for sex; neither can throw off the unconscious mental stereotype of woman as victim. It is almost impossible for such a person to see the payment of a young woman for sexual services as less than an assault.

It may be. It may equally represent, for her, a route to better things. There has to be an age when we let people choose, and no age will be right for everybody, but I will settle for 16. So if the connoisseur is 16 or more, I hand to her the decision. Who knows, if she finds a suitable businessman she may one day be cruising the beaches of Sri Lanka as a rich widow. And if the boy who has her his ornaments is 16, I hand to him the decision. And it just could be that three people's time in the world is the happier for it.

The experts are wrong. The Royal Marriages Act does not apply to the Prince of Wales

Charles doesn't need permission to marry

Attempts were made last week to bring two ancient artefacts to the surface: a rusty 20-ton chunk of the *Titanic*, and the Royal Marriages Act 1772. George III's equally rusty legal blunderbuss which gave him a veto over family marriages.

It was a bad law from the beginning. William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, Britain's greatest war Prime Minister, voted against it in the House of Lords, calling it "new fangled and impudent... wanton and tyrannical". Charles James Fox resigned from the Government in protest against it, and Edmund Burke also opposed it. George III, an extremely foolish monarch, insisted on it, and Lord North, an extremely weak Prime Minister, did as he was told by the King. He usually did, as in losing America. Now some commentators are saying that under this Act Queen Elizabeth II would have to approve or disapprove her son's fortunately hypothetical marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles. They are mistaken.

George III's reason for insisting on this Act was that his siblings, rather than his children, were in the habit of making what he regarded as unsuitable marriages. The brother whose marriage was the King's immediate cause of concern was Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland. There were three Dukes of Cumberland in the mid or late 18th century: William Augustus, the victor of Culloden, George III's uncle; Henry Frederick, his brother; and Ernest Augustus, his son, who eventually became King of Hanover. Henry Frederick was the least distinguished and the most dissolute. In 1770 he had to pay damages of £10,000 to the 1st Earl Grosvenor, the ancestor of the Dukes of Westminster, for having had criminal conversations with the Countess. "Crim Con" was what the lawyers called it.

In 1771 Henry Frederick infuriated George III by his clandestine mar-

riage to Mrs Horton, which was performed at the bride's house in Mayfair. Anne Horton was the daughter of the Earl of Carhampton, so she was quite well connected, if not well enough for the Royal Family. It is not certain that this marriage was the first he had contracted, as a person called Olive Wilmot was alleged to be his wife, and a Miss Wilmot later claimed to be a Princess.

Henry Frederick's marriage was irritating enough to George III, but as soon as it became known, another brother, William Henry, Duke of Gloucester, announced that he had secretly married Maria, the widow of the 2nd Earl Waldegrave, as long ago as 1766. Maria Walpole, although illegitimate, was a cut above Mrs Horton. She was perhaps the greatest beauty of her day, the favourite niece of her uncle, Horace Walpole, and a woman beloved by everyone.

After her first husband's death, she had turned down the Duke of Portland to marry the Duke of Gloucester. Waldegrave himself had been George III's closest personal friend and remains in the record books as the briefest Prime Minister in British history, having lasted only from the 8th to the 12th of June 1757. Walpole and Waldegrave blood should have been good enough for anyone; perhaps it was Maria's illegitimacy which upset George III. He himself, as a young man, had wanted to marry Lady Sarah Lennox, who was herself only the daughter of a Duke, not of a European royal family. That had not been allowed.

The third scandal was far more serious. George III's youngest and favourite sister was Caroline Matilda, who was born in 1751 and died in 1775. She was engaged at the age of 14 to her first cousin, Christian, the Prince Royal of Denmark. He succeeded as King in January 1766, and they were married in the November of that year when she was still only 15. He was a cold husband to his young bride; he is described as being almost an imbecile, and was compared by the historian Niebuhr to that monster

fessed, and in April he was executed. Gibbon states that "the King had raised a little physician to the rank of Minister and Ganymede". Caroline was later released, went to Hanover and died of a throat infection.

Three marriages, two of which he did not approve, and the third of which was disgraceful and disastrous, led George III to assert an authority beyond his power. He made the same mistake over America. He could not decide the love lives of his brothers and sisters, or later on, of his children. He could not decide the political lives of his American subjects. In the case of the Royal Marriages Act, he did at least perceive that he could not veto the marriages of foreign royal families.

The Act has an exemption clause to deal with this problem. It imposes the King's consent on the marriages of all the descendants of George II, "other than the issue of princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry, into foreign families". Some modern constitutional commentators have failed to appreciate the significance of this exemption. Lord Blake, Vernon Bogdanor and Simon Heffer have all recently stated that Prince Charles would have to ask the Queen's permission to remarry, if that were what he wanted to do. But this exemption extends to all the descendants of princesses who marry into foreign families. Princesses descended from George II were married into at least three foreign families whose issue has subsequently married back into the British Royal Family.

Queen Alexandra was descended from the Danish family; Queen Mary was descended from the family of Teck; Prince Philip is descended both from the Danish and the Hesse families. All of these families had previously married British princesses descended from George II. Prince Charles is therefore exempt through his descent from these exempt families. He is not subject to the Royal Marriages Act 1772, except possibly insofar as any remarriage would still qualify as a royal marriage: such marriages are governed by the canon and common law as it existed prior to 1753, and not by any subsequent statutes. They cannot therefore be celebrated in a register office or a Nonconformist chapel. Four of them have in recent years been dissolved by a post-1753 process of law. The Queen's solicitors, Messrs Farrers, have presumably satisfied themselves that these divorces of royal marriages are valid, though that might otherwise be doubtful.

As no descendant of Princess Louisa, daughter to George II, of Princess Caroline, sister to George III, of Princess Mary Adelaide, daughter of the Duke of Cambridge, or of Princess Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria, is subject to the Royal Marriages Act, it has become rather difficult to find any royal descendants who are, I think, though I am not sure, that the Act still covers some members of the Abet-Smith family, and perhaps a few others. Perhaps the Act should be renamed the Abet-Smith Marriages Act.

Prince Charles is certainly exempt, as are both his brothers, his sister, and his first, second and third cousins in the royal line of descent. He can therefore marry as freely as the rest of us, so far as the law is concerned, provided he does not marry a Catholic and complies with the matrimonial law of England as it stood in 1753. Whether he would be well advised to take advantage of this freedom is another matter.

William Rees-Mogg

of Roman depravity, the Emperor Caligula. Christian seems to have been bisexual. He had two children by Caroline; he had mistresses; he also had male favourites, including a certain Count von Holck, and, more importantly, a physician, John Frederick Struensee. Struensee was a womaniser as well as being boyfriend of the King. He seduced Caroline, and for a while he and she governed the country, partly on the principles of Rousseau.

In January 1772, Struensee, Queen Caroline and some of their co-conspirators were arrested in a coup. Struensee was charged with adultery with Caroline, to which she con-

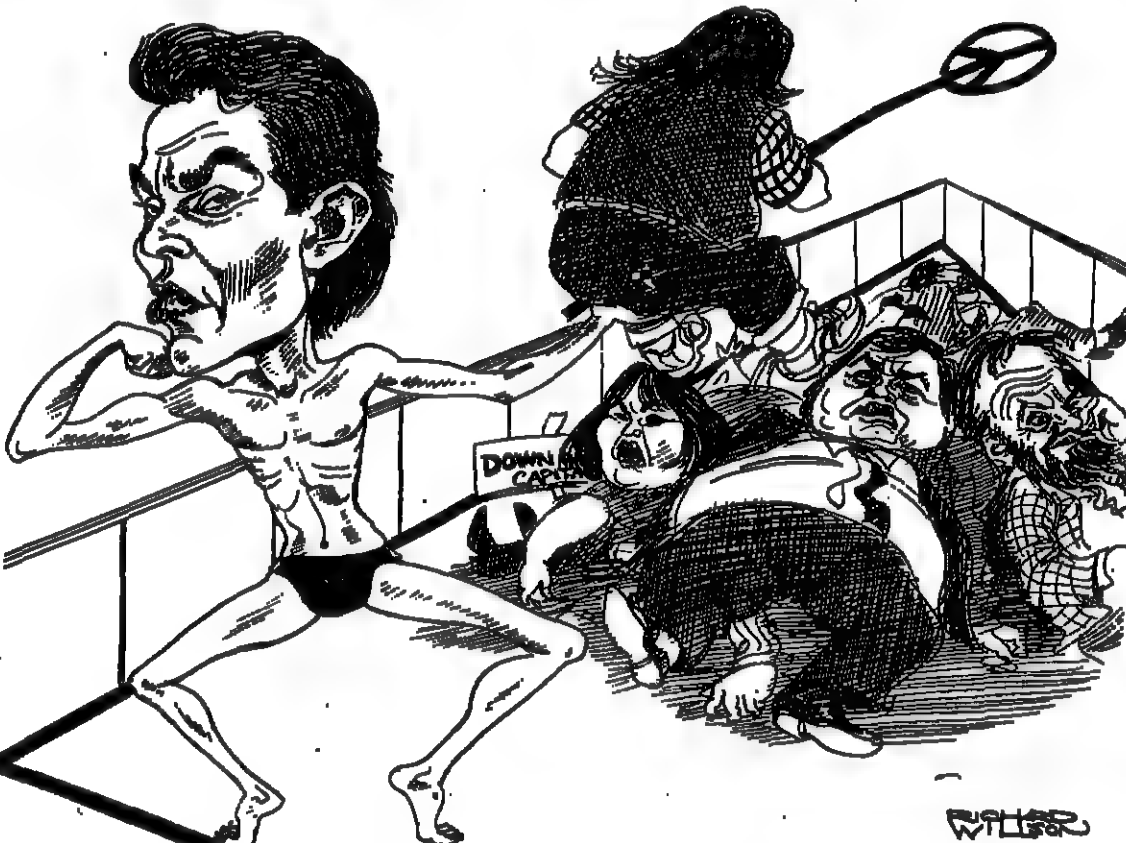
Blair plays the triangle

Trigonometry
may matter less
than 'time for a
change', says
Peter Riddell

Peter Riddell

It is time for some political trigonometry. If Bill Clinton is re-elected on November 5, he will owe a lot to the strategy of "triangulation" devised by Dick Morris, his now disgraced campaign adviser. A response to the Republicans' capture of Congress in November 1994, it is about repositioning Mr Clinton not just between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats, but above the conventional Left-Right spectrum in the "dynamic" centre — hence the triangle. Some of this is campaign strategist's pretentious guff — and Mr Morris has never been short of pretension — for allowing Mr Clinton to pick what suits him from both sides. And, so far, according to the polls, it has worked.

Sounds familiar? Mr Blair has been practising his own version of triangulation, even though his advisers have never had anything to do with Mr Morris and have always been closer to other Clinton insiders like George Stephanopoulos. The very idea of "new" Labour is to chart a different way from what he described yesterday as "the clapped-out Tory party and turning the clock back under Labour to the policies of 25 years ago". "Old" Labour was both intellectually barren and unelectable. So we have the politics of the "radical" Centre. Mr Blair's reputation in his *Sunday Times* interview of his description of himself as a social democrat does not mean he is trying to create an SDP Mark II. It is a waste of time to indulge in theological discussions about the difference between a social democrat and a democratic socialist. That is for zealots and historians of Labour



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

revisionism. The real point is that Mr Blair is trying to increase the party's appeal to the Centre.

Yet what do post-1994 Clinton and "new" Blairite Labour really stand for? The assy Maureen Dowd wrote in *The New York Times* last week that at the Chicago convention "Dick Morris achieved perfect triangulation, positioning Bill Clinton at the intersection of conservative scheming and liberal sentimentality. There was no party identity. There was only the distant rumble of a train pulling into Kalamazoo in time to make the 6 o'clock news."

That is Mr Blair's real problem now. So much of his energy has been devoted to defining what Labour is not that the public image of what it is has become blurred. Mr Blair has been discussing how he can show

that his appeal to the Centre is not rootless but comes from the Left. By contrast, the summer rumblings of dissent by MPs, though tiresome, should be containable and answered by the big majorities which the pre-manifesto is likely to win at the Blackpool conference and in the later ballot of party members. More worrying for Labour are the signs in the latest MORI poll that the Tories are recapturing some, though far from all, of their middle-class support on the back of a return of economic optimism. That has made it even more necessary for Labour to establish its distinctiveness.

Mr Blair recognises the complaint but appears irritated by it. Hasn't

Labour, he argues, produced more detailed policies than any other Opposition, and hasn't it been careful not to make uncosted spending commitments? All true up to a point. Labour's pre-manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*, and his forthcoming collection of speeches, *New Britain: My Vision of a Young Country*, are full of substance, without the disastrous wish-list of promises for interest groups of earlier manifestos.

But the pre-manifesto remains unsatisfactory. The whole is less than the parts, which is why, despite the presentational success of its launch, it has made so little impact. It is not just the careful crafting by focus groups, nor even what David Goodhart rightly described on this page as our "raucous plebiscitary democracy". The shallowness of much of the

media prevents rational discussion of policy. Even the usually cautious Gordon Brown provoked a furious row over his proposals for reallocating child benefit paid to some 16 to 18-year-olds. What Labour spokesman is now going to propose taking a benefit away from anyone?

But the real constraint is deeper: the public's ambivalence about the role of government. Voters want an extensive welfare state but do not want to pay higher taxes to finance better services, or so most mainstream politicians believe (Paddy Ashdown apart). Hence, the adoption of a policy of incrementalism, the belief that the public prefers small, achievable steps to promising the world and delivering nothing.

But that does not tally with the ambitious rhetoric of change. Apart from the plans for sweeping constitutional reform, the "early" pledges promised by Labour are mainly desirable in themselves — cutting class sizes and hospital waiting lists and getting those who are under 25 off benefits — but are tiny by comparison with the scale of the problems, while the methods of financing are gimmicky. The windfall levy on the utilities is rapidly being undermined by the more aggressive policies of the regulators, while saving £100 million from NHS red tape to reduce waiting-lists will not only be hard to achieve in the short term, but is also marginal when compared with a rise in health spending ten times larger this year alone.

This approach skates over the surface of the real spending and tax choices, and does not even hint at how a Blair government would start to spend more on education than welfare or would raise the living standards of the poor. Mr Blair has to show how Labour would really do better than the Tories on the central economic and social issues. Of course, there is the suspicion, as one minister remarked to me after recent canvassing, that what many voters really want is "our measures, but not us". After all the propaganda battles and skilful positioning of the next eight months, "time for a change" may still be the decisive argument.

Royal split

THE NEWS that the Prince of Wales's hearty friend Tiggy Legge-Bourke is to leave his full-time employ may be only the precursor to a much more important departure from the household.

Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince's private secretary for the past five years, has become increasingly isolated among staff at Buckingham Palace, and now even the Prince's dogged loyalty is under strain. A parting of the ways is predicted.

Aylard was widely credited with encouraging the Prince to indulge in his TV confessional with Jonathan Dimbleby, and he has received lashings of criticism ever since. His relentless dedication to the job was cited by his wife as the cause of their marriage failure, but for all his devotion, much of the blame for the Prince's wretched public image has been laid at his door.

Last week Bruce Anderson used his *Spectator* column for a brutal attack on Aylard, and yesterday the veteran commentator John Junor weighed in too, in his column in the *Mail on Sunday*.

The Prince is considered weak

and vacillating when it comes to dismissing staff, and he recently appointed Mark Bolland, director of the Press Complaints Commission, to work alongside Aylard handling press relations. But those in the thick of the mess are convinced that this was not enough.

"From being the first port of call as adviser and friend to Charles, Aylard is now being seen as too



Aylard: out in the cold

closely associated with the Prince's media problems," says one. "Now Charles is beginning to distance himself."

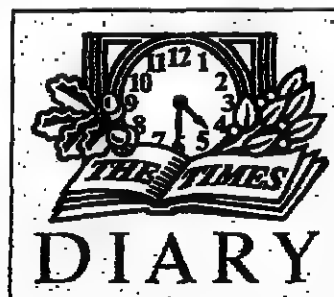
Will power

JUST how big is the ego of Will Hutton, the Editor of *The Observer*? His staff have been intrigued by an advertisement in their sister paper, *The Guardian*, singing the praises of a publication called "Will Hutton's *Observer*".

Puzzled, I rang Hutton to ask what it all means. "I am the captain on the bridge, but there are a lot of lieutenants," he explains enigmatically, and after a lot of um-ing and ah-ing, admits that the advertising campaign had his blessing. "But we are not going to sell *The Observer* round Will Hutton." Modesty indeed.

Gordon's gym

GORDON BROWN is looking increasingly lightweight. Parliamentary colleagues returning from their hols have been taken aback to find that the dour Shadow Chancellor has become, well, a shadow of his former self. He boasts a svelter new look, his face is more elongated, his figure is verging on the trim.



The slimming certainly didn't occur during his hamburger-and-Budweiser wallais at the Democratic convention in Chicago, and his office insists there have been no crash diets. "Just regular gym visits and tennis," says a spokesman. "The gym isn't new but the 'regular' is."

Shirty

ON the other side of the political divide, David Willetts, the dunish Paymaster General, seems to be shaping up as a heavyweight. He is growing into his new job so fast that he has been bursting out of his shirts.

Evidently his time as an adviser to Margaret Thatcher has taught him the virtue of thrift, however, and his cast-offs have not been

squandered. He donates them to an employment centre in his Havant constituency, so that the unemployed can sport Jermyn Street's finest tailoring at job interviews. "I've gone up from 15½ to 16, and most of my shirts, though in good condition, were strangling me," he explains.

Good news for habitués of the House of Lords bar, where the prospect of Tony Blair's reforms has left folk a little downcast (one lord now heads his notepad to read "House of nodders"). The dingy wa-



It's a hacksaw pie from Michael Howard

tering hole is being tarted up over the summer and the planning application explains that one addition will be a "new means of escape".

Cow calling

THE more time we spend talking to each other's answerphones, the sillier the messages become. It is time to out the smart alecs and highlight the downright odd. Consider this from Willie Rushton: "B*****ks the Butler speaking, what splendid news about mad cow disease, that explains the last 20 years, and I thought I was the one who was barmy." Here the message gets really insane (even Rushton's wife can't fully comprehend it) but it goes something like: "Please leave a spring-like message after the moo. Moooooooon!"

Riotous time

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI's new film, *Stealing Beauty* — in which the alluring Liv Tyler is caught up in a riot of bohemian behaviour in Chianti — gives a quite false impression of the region that Tony Blair so loves.

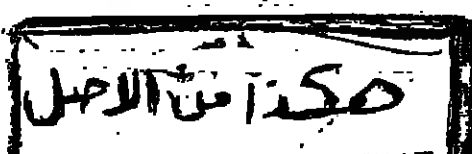
It is a lot saucier. News reaches me of a house par-

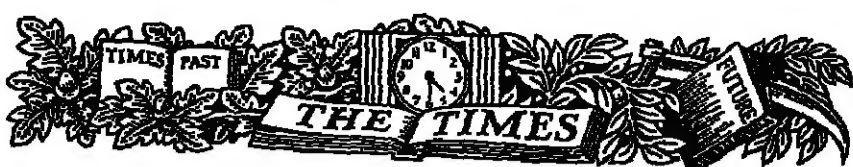


Lewis party animals

ty thrown by the irrepressible Ewa Lwy, social editor of *Tatler*. As thoughts of London faded, so did the inhibitions of her guests. A cross-dressing party ensued. Sadly, the identities of the partygoers — who are said to have included politicians, captains of industry and thespians — remain in the Tuscan hills. "We had a lovely time and everybody joined in," says the host cheerfully. "But I can't possibly tell you who was there."

P.H.S





SADDAM'S STRIKE

The Iraqi leader catches his enemies off guard — again

President Saddam Hussein has once more caught the West napping. For astute timing, military audacity and political impact, his dramatic intervention in the running feud between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq could hardly have been bettered. The storming by Iraqi troops of Arbil, supposedly the parliamentary seat of an elected autonomous Iraqi Kurdish administration, is as embarrassing for the West as it is disastrous for the Iraqi political opposition.

Since the aftermath of the Gulf War in 1991, when Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds rebelled against Baghdad and met savage retribution, Iraq north of the 36th parallel has been placed under the protective mantle of America, Britain and France. Operation Provide Comfort, a combination of air exclusion zone and safe haven, was launched for humanitarian reasons. But its sustaining impulse has been the West's hope that a democratic, autonomous Kurdish region from which Baghdad's troops were excluded might be a rallying point for all Saddam's opponents, including non-Kurds.

The weak link in this strategy is the Kurds themselves, who since 1994 have put more effort into fighting each other than into standing up to Baghdad. On Friday, just as the Americans were trying to knock Kurdish heads together in London, Saddam sent 40,000 crack troops of his Republican Guard, backed by artillery and 450 tanks, storming across the 36th parallel in defiance of the West. With this one bold stroke, he has ripped a hole in the West's protective umbrella and exposed its strategy of containment to ridicule.

Saddam claims that he has merely been helping out his friends in the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and, less plausibly, that his men will soon quietly vanish whence they came and wait for the Kurds to open a "democratic dialogue" on reunifying Iraq. Awkwardly, he has half a point: the Iraqi flag is again flying over the city of Arbil

because the KDP leader, Massoud Barzani, who inclines to reconciliation with Saddam as the only realistic course, did a deal with Baghdad in order to oust Jalal Talabani's rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

This puts America and its allies in some difficulty. Kurds are again being humiliated by Iraq's troops and police, but Saddam's success in splitting the Kurds has set the West a trap. Retaliation must not appear to back the rival Kurdish PUK faction against the KDP, the fact that the PUK has put out the odd feeler to Iran makes things even more awkward. But, having declared northern Iraq off limits to Saddam, Western leaders cannot ignore so open a challenge without severe damage to the whole strategy of containment. Privately, they may share Baghdad's argument that Operation Provide Comfort has "brought nothing but killing, loss and anarchy". Publicly, they can concede no such thing.

In planning its response — which will have to be military because Saddam respects nothing else — the Clinton Administration should reflect that yet again, willing resolve in one aspect of its dealings with Iraq has led to trouble elsewhere. The West has turned a blind eye to Iraq's sanctions-busting oil exports via Turkey, worth around \$800 million a year — foreign exchange which Iraq has been used to rearm.

Still more seriously, for the past three months Saddam has resumed his systematic obstruction of the work of Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN inspection team charged with destroying Iraq's illegal weapons programmes. This is a strategically vital task; yet in response, the UN Security Council has barely batted an eyelid. The Iraqi dictator has lost none of his appetite for confrontation. If the US wants to curb the man, it must strike at his military assets. An obvious starting point is the sites whose secrets, in defiance of the Security Council's legally binding edicts, he is again trying to hide.

SOCIALS AND DEMOCRATS

Blair is keener to appeal to new supporters than to appease old

Labour may be losing its hold on the middle classes but its leader is digging in on the middle ground. Last week's MORI poll in *The Times* suggested that Labour had lost its lead among middle-class voters for the first time since Tony Blair became leader. This weekend, in a series of newspaper and television interviews, Mr Blair has sought to reclaim the moderate terrain on which he believes the election will be fought and won. By invoking aspiration and compassion and describing himself as a "social democrat" as much as a "democratic socialist", Mr Blair is out to efface in the public memory the stirrings of old socialism apparent over August. He appears more determined to reach out to new supporters than to genuflect to the old, reassuring waverers that if elected, he will not be the prisoner of his party.

Since his election, Mr Blair has sought to define his party in opposition to two extremes. Mr Blair characterised the party he joined as "old Labour", a decaying anachronism. He caricatured John Major's Government as an administration hijacked by extremists of the "new Right". New Labour, Mr Blair argued, transcended these divisions and promised a moderate, progressive alternative.

As Peter Riddell observes on the opposite page, a similar strategy under the name "triangulation" has been exploited successfully by President Clinton. Sceptics on the Labour benches, however, detect a less promising parallel. They see in the attempt to create a progressive party of the Centre the shadow of the old Social Democratic Party. Mr Blair's description of himself as a social democrat, however qualified, and his closeness to former SDP thinkers such as Roger Liddle, Derek Scott and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead only create further alarm among

party traditionalists. The nuanced difference between social democrats and democratic socialists may appear to be the sort of wrangle, important in Westminster but obscure elsewhere, which Mr Blair believes distracts from his message.

It is, however, another telling reminder of the tensions that modernisation has placed on the Labour Party. That John Prescott could not bear to style himself a social democrat reveals something of the resentment within Labour at the damage caused by SDP defectors and the unease abroad now that the leader has welcomed back so many prodigals. It is also another indication that, although they are loyal to Mr Blair, many senior Labour politicians do not believe he should recreate their party entirely in his image.

Mr Blair was careful over the weekend to show he can listen to his party, not least by acknowledging that he had changed his mind over the wisdom of holding Shadow Cabinet elections this year. But that does not signal agreement with his internal critics. He was sceptical of the case for higher taxes on the rich and, wisely, pointed out that making it easier for people to work was a better cure for poverty than welfare funded by tax increases. He encouraged postal workers to abandon their strike.

Mr Blair's comments, combined with the publication of the names of business donors to the Labour Party, are calculated to suggest a party less tied to its past, and friendlier to enterprise. After an August when the Left looked restive, Mr Blair might have been tempted to trim. His determination not to may appeal to moderate voters, but they will still want to know more about his policies, not least on tax, before they can feel sure of him, and his party.

A STITCH IN TIME

Cleopatra's Needle is in need of protection

The argument that Britain is right to keep its exotic treasures of antiquity rests at least in part on the claim that the countries from which they came would be less able to protect them from such modern hazards as pollution. Yet just a few hundred yards from the seat of British government stands a priceless ancient gem, shipped here from Egypt in the 19th century, which is at risk of being ruined by traffic fumes. Britain should take better care of Cleopatra's Needle.

As a correspondent to our letters page, J. P. Rudland, pointed out last week, the few obelisks that remain in Egypt are in better condition than their sister in London. Their granite surface is still pink and smooth, in contrast to the black, rough condition of ours on the Embankment. Although the ravages of time — including its stormy voyage to England — have contributed to erosion, the past century has done the obelisk few favours.

Britain's Needle was at least not plundered from Egypt. The 70-ft-high obelisk was given to this country in 1819 by Viceroy Mehmet Ali, an Albanian who ruled Egypt for the Turks. The gift was to thank Lord Nelson for defeating the French at the Battle of the Nile and restoring Turkish control. But the task of shipping the 180-ton

ship. Despite these preparations, the cylinder hit a rock during a storm in the Bay of Biscay and nearly sank. In the process of saving the obelisk, six sailors were drowned.

When its final resting-site near Parliament Square was chosen after long debate, the Embankment was not a six-lane dual carriageway full of fume-belching traffic. Now the Needle is in a shocking state, its hieroglyphics more eroded than those of its sisters in New York, Paris and Rome.

These Egyptian obelisks scattered round the Western world have borrowed their way into their adopted countries' histories and culture. Simon Schama, in *Landscape and Memory*, describes them as big sticks brandished by Britain and France in a game of imperial showmanship. Then there is a Masonic connection. Obelisks and pyramids have always been of great importance to Freemasons, and it was a Mason, Sir Erasmus Wilson, who put up the £10,000 needed to ship Britain's obelisk to London.

Our correspondent, Mr Rudland, suggests that London's Needle should be moved to a cleaner environment, possibly the British Museum. Putting it in a museum might be too extreme a form of protection. But once Westminster council has cleared it and assessed the damage, a move to a park

Tory activists and party reform

From the Chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations

Sir, I would not want there to be any confusion over the nature of the discussions taking place on the future of the Conservative Party (report and leading article, August 27).

The National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations is made up entirely of volunteers who give their time and energy in support of the Conservative Party. It is not part of Central Office so is not part of what you describe as the "Establishment".

The purpose of our working groups is to ensure that the voluntary party in the country continues strong and vibrant in support of the returned Conservative Government, as it has over the past 17 years. The working groups have not yet reported, and therefore consultation with the constituency associations which make up the National Union cannot yet begin.

Indeed, it has never been proposed to undertake this consultation this side of the general election. I am sure that there will be no trade-off between the rights of constituency associations to select their prospective parliamentary candidate and giving those associations a say in the election of the party leader.

Our volunteers are focusing their energies on winning the next general election — promoting the tremendous achievements of the Conservative Government and exposing the new dangers of new Labour.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HODGSON, Chairman,
National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
August 27.

From Mr David Gibson

Sir, I am profoundly glad that Mr Major has opened a can of worms. It is long overdue that party activists such as myself were given a vote in leadership contests, and I hope that the National Union will now work constructively on the proposals coming out of Central Office.

While it is right that MPs should have the prime role in choosing the party leader, there is always the risk that they are at variance with the party in the country. How many active supporters of the party have any interest in the National Union? Why are local associations not consulted before policies are formulated?

Party workers should now be demanding a vote in any future leadership contest — not to bind the will of the MPs, who have to daily support the leader in Parliament, but merely to see that the democratic processes which underpin the British constitution are respected.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GIBSON,
33 Ringwood Crescent,
Wollaton, Nottingham,
September 1.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, Whether ordinary Conservative Party members should have a vote in the election of the leader or whether Central Office should have more power in choosing parliamentary candidates are good questions which should be debated by the whole party. This will not happen, for the party has no constitution: as a legal entity it does not exist.

As we move towards the 21st century it is not time the Conservative Party adopted a constitution in which each member had a vote, thus becoming the first of our major parties to be truly democratic. In addition, this would expose the sham democracy of the Labour Party, which is still largely controlled by the trade unions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD
(Chairman, Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy),
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Political funding

From Mr T. Foulkes

Sir, Your report of August 29 that an apparently small-to-medium enterprise has paid off an overdraft of more than £11 million could be seen as an over-green shoot of recovery. On closer inspection, however, it turns out to be both a charity and a political party.

What is more that party has formed the Government of this country for the past 17 years. The turnaround has allegedly been achieved through loans. The public is not to be informed of the source nor the conditions, if any, under which these loans were made.

One is aware that the Government is able to offer massive amounts of public property to "preferred bidders". While it is not suggested here that there is any connection between loans and bidding outcomes, in a democratic society there is no room for even the merest possibility of doubt.

One is also aware that if a citizen goes into a bank and deposits several thousand pounds in cash, the bank is obliged to inform the authorities in case this is an attempt to launder money. Yet the governing party of the land is exempt from any scrutiny.

Clearly, this is an unacceptable inconsistency. Consistency would equally require that all political parties declare their sources of funds.

Yours sincerely,
T. FOULKES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Energy and enterprise to exploit British inventors' ideas

From Mr John D. Emanuel

Sir, British inventors should seek to exploit their ideas in global markets (letters, August 15, 21 and 26). Since Sir Christopher Cockerell's time (interview, August 26), resources for inventors have greatly improved. Good advice can be obtained through the Institute of International Licensing Practitioners (IILP), the Licensing Executive Society (LES) and other groups. For the more entrepreneurially minded needing capital there are now a host of venture capital providers and business "angels".

In Britain, we whinge too much about the difficulties faced by inventors and innovators. A greater concern should be the behaviour of service and manufacturing companies who should be exploiting their work.

Companies depend on innovations to differentiate their products from those of their competitors and to create the added value and profit needed for their survival and growth. It is for British companies to search out innovators — not just from Britain but from all over the globe — and then to exploit them all over the globe.

In the past few decades Korea, Japan, Singapore and other countries have demonstrated the colossal growth in wealth and standard of living that can be achieved by this approach. There is an ample supply of innovation and also of proven technology available to those companies with the courage and energy to exploit it.

We do not need another leaden innovation initiative from the DTI or the EU. We need more companies to see themselves as robust platforms onto which new products and services can be grafted. Strategic alliances, technology licences and other forms of co-operation with innovative companies and inventive people offer a fast track to growth.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. EMANUEL
(Chairman, Institute of International Licensing Practitioners (1985-1993)),
(Executive Council Member,
Licensing Executive Society),
Pax Technology Transfer Ltd,
112 Boundary Road, NW8.

From Mr Mark Anderson

Sir, Successful invention and the educational background of Britain's industrial leaders are separate issues which some of your correspondents appear to have confused.

In the field of biotechnology, companies are being formed in the UK almost every day. Although we lag behind the United States, we are far ahead of other European countries in the number and size of such companies.

Many are being formed by scientists. The UK investment community is becoming more used to assessing business proposals made by scientists to commercialise inventions.

However, the high-tech sector is a relatively small part of most national economies. For most companies marketing is more important than managing research and development. The old arguments about whether studying classics or natural sciences is the better route to the top seem irrelevant to modern business life.

If the scientific community is concerned to encourage a broader outlook an obvious step would be to reduce the very heavy workload of science and engineering students at university. They would then have more time to develop an interest in the debating society and the other student activities which are dominated by lawyers, arts students and classicists, with their less demanding courses.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ANDERSON,
Anderson & Co (solicitors),
36 The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey,
September 1.

From Mr Pat Hearn, FEEng

Sir, One of the answers to Sir Christopher Cockerell's arguments is to encourage government to take much more interest in the exploitation phase of UK innovations.

By giving support to industrial companies' sponsorship of technology the Government can avoid the traps of picking "marketplace winners" and put its money where industry has also chosen to do so. Furthermore, by act-

ing as an intelligent customer for a new product whenever practicable, it can give the product a fair wind.

Unfortunately, because it cannot seem to find the right formula for success the British Government usually tends to shy away from the commercial end of the exploitation process, preferring instead the "more worthy" (and cheaper) field of research, even to the extent of at one time refusing to fund any research with immediate market-value applications.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. HEARNE,
The Times, Watlington, Kent,
August 29.

From Mr Matthew Read

Sir, We are fortunate in this country in having a strong tradition of invention, and our education system is especially good at fostering an academic approach that generates innovation. However, I believe that too much emphasis is placed on the act of invention itself.

As a Chartered and European patent attorney for the past 20 years, I have met many independent British inventors; often they greet me with a sigh of relief, thinking that once a patent application has been filed for their new idea, somehow things will switch to automatic and other people will take over. They feel that their job was to perform the act of invention and that other people will handle the commercial arrangements. Unfortunately, life is not like that.

Many people can invent, fewer can make commercially useful inventions, and only a very small number indeed have both the commercial and technical acumen to take invention through to commercial reality.

We can definitely improve the environment for inventors, but the most effective change would come about if we were to educate them to have a more commercial attitude towards exploiting their ideas.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW READ,
158 Camberwell Grove, SE5,
August 26.

Genius and madness

From Professor Joan Freeman

Sir, The relationship between genius and madness (report and leading article, August 28), is a myth based on anecdotal stories, such as that of the Nobel mathematician, John Nash, who has disclosed that after 15 years of schizophrenia his mathematical output had gone "from strength to strength".

Wider evidence suggests, on the contrary, that those who are to push back the frontiers of knowledge and understanding need a good head on their shoulders, and that madness serves only to undermine the continuous hard work which goes into creative endeavour.

Certainly there is a relationship between schizophrenia and creative thoughts, but the illness gets in the way of production. Typically, Van Gogh's work deteriorated as he lost control, and Virginia Woolf's writing stopped with each spell of illness until it finally ended with her suicide.

Genius is genius, and madness is madness. To believe that one is necessarily related to the other may provide a certain *Schadenfreude*, but it is not the truth.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN FREEMAN,
21 Montagu Square, W1,
August 30.

Morningside patter

From Mr A. D. Matheson

Sir, As a former resident of Edinburgh, I read with interest Joseph Connolly's piece on the festival "An unwise season in Edinburgh", August 22.

The pronunciation of Edinburgh has always been problematical. "Aid-inburra," I would submit, is not the exclusive preserve of the older locals, but is accepted all round Morningside.

"Emra" I have yet to come across, but it does seem remarkably close to the standard Fife rendition of "Embrae", which has been in existence for at least 50 years and rhymes with William McGonagall's "silvery" Tay...

That has caused the Emperor of Brazil to leave His home far away, incognito in his dress. And view there ere he passed along en route to Inverness.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. MATHESON,
30 Little Heath, SE7,
August 30.

League of gentlemen

From Mr Paul Burrell

Sir, Your interesting and selective examples of wealthy Russians who might send their offspring to British or Swiss boarding schools included "politicians, businessmen and gangsters" (report, August 23).

Was this intended to be in ascending or descending order of villainy?

Yours sincerely,

Prescott and Labour

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, One of the intriguing highlights of this week's "coronation of Clinton" in Chicago has been the attendance of a strong team of front-line Labour politicians, led by John Prescott. Presumably they were there in order to consolidate political links in preparation for government, as well as to monitor campaigning tactics.

On August 28, interviewed on television, Mr Prescott said that he was pleased to see so many trades unionists involved at the convention, but was less enthusiastic about the use of "focus groups" to gauge public opinion on proposed policies.

Mr Prescott seems to have moved on a long way politically since he

wrote to *The Times* on February 25, 1993, criticising his Labour comrade, Roy Hattersley, for calling for a new party constitution which Prescott considered indistinguishable from the centrist policies of the defunct SDP.

"The fundamental difference between our philosophies," he wrote, "is our close and integrated relationship with the trade union movement, and the concept of public ownership, enshrined in Clause IV" (ie, before the clause was rewritten).

I think Mr Prescott was right then. At that time he was transport spokesman under John Smith, not deputy leader to Mr Blair.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWRY,
45 Clendon Close, Stoneleigh, Surrey,
August 30.

Access to the Bar

From Mr Neville Goldrein

Sir, Roger Everest, a barrister (letter, August 28), says that the defence solicitor often has a less than vital part to play in the administration of justice and suggests that it should be left to barristers, increasingly using the Internet.

The solicitor is equipped to make inquiries, take witness statements, write letters, deal with the police, arrange hearings at the courts, visit the scene of the alleged crime and arrange for photographs to be taken — all matters for which the barrister, with neither

secretarial nor office facilities other than his chambers' clerk, is ill-equipped.

Contrary to Mr Everest's suggestion, in my experience no defence solicitor has been recruited for the defendant by the police.

The Internet is merely an addendum to solicitors' computers, word processors, fax machines, telephones and, above all, human beings in close contact with the client.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
NEVILLE GOLDBREIN,
Torre, St Andrew's Road,
Blundellsands, Liverpool 23,
September 1.

In memoriam

From the Reverend Dr P. C. Jupp

Sir, Your leading article, "Inside the tomb" (August 21), says that "a mausoleum is a poor substitute for life". On the contrary, it is meant to extend life beyond death.

A mausoleum perpetuates the corporate influence once vested in an individual. It is intended to promote or command respect for a specific bloodline, bank balance or political dynasty and to underwrite the success of succeeding generations.

The mausoleum celebrates the values and power held by specific fore-

bears. As you say, the higher values approved by Queen Victoria (eg, domestic order, privacy) were perpetuated in her mausoleum's design.

By contrast, the mausoleum of Halicarnassus, on the grandeur of which you comment, was a memorial to an incestuous marriage as well as to the power and wealth of the Carian dynasty.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. JUPP
(Director),
The National Funerals College,
Braddon House, High Street,
Duddington, Stamford, Lincolnshire,
August 26.

At arm's length

From Mr J. R. Thompson

Sir, I have just returned from the florists, where I had gone to purchase six yards of ribbon for table decorations.

On being told that it was sold in metres, I agreed to take six metres. This the assistant proceeded to measure against her arm, and rolled and wrapped it for me.

Sincerely,
JOHN THOMPSON,
94 Stoughton Road,
Oadby, Leicestershire,
August 27.

Sport letters, page 36

Because of the delays resulting

OBITUARIES

LJUBA WELITSCH

Ljuba Welitsch, Bulgarian soprano, died on August 31 aged 83. She was born near Varna on July 10, 1913.

THERE was no mistaking Ljuba Welitsch. In her prime it was not just her voice but her mass of auburn hair and the way she made an entrance that commanded immediate attention in the opera house. Later, when she appeared in occasional small parts at Vienna's Volksoper, her presence lit up the stage. Even as a member of the audience, and Welitsch was an assiduous opera-goer, heads turned the moment she entered the house.

Her operatic career, cruelly interrupted by the war, was short. But while it lasted Welitsch was a star — and quite often behaved like one. She inspired audience adoration, especially in her adopted city of Vienna and in New York, where her debut at the Met on February 4, 1949, as Salome created a sensation.

She was quite often at the centre of backstage rows and rivalries. Then, when she was little more than 40, her voice suddenly faded and she married, in true operatic style, a handsome Viennese traffic policeman whom legend has it she literally bumped into while driving round the city.

She was born Ljuba Velichkova in Borisovo, near the Black Sea port of Varna. Her stage name of Ljuba Welitsch was well chosen: it translates roughly from the Bulgarian as "great love" and Welitsch specialised in fiery heroines, with Strauss's Salome chief among them. She read philosophy at Sofia University before going to Vienna to study music under Theo Lierhammer. Her first major role was Nedda (in *pagliacci*) at the Graz Opera in 1936. During the war she sang in several major German houses, including Hamburg, Munich and Berlin, before moving to Vienna.

It was there she appeared for the first time as Salome in 1944, with Richard Strauss himself conducting to mark his 80th birthday. At the end of hostilities, Welitsch was among the small band of highly distinguished singers Fritz Salmhofer gathered around him as he tried to re-establish the Vienna State Opera. "I need bait for Welitsch and petrol for Schoffler," was one of Salmhofer's famous pleas to the occu-



pying Allied forces. Clearly they were forthcoming — in 1947 the Vienna State Opera came to Covent Garden.

That short season introduced a number of stars to London and none more bright than Welitsch. It was not her debut, as she had appeared under Sir John Barbirolli's baton in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the Verdi *Requiem*. Her first stage role in London was Donna Anne in *Don Giovanni*. Maria Cebotari, something of a rival to Welitsch, both because of repertoire and her Romanian nationality, had sung the opening performance. But Welitsch outshined her.

The Bulgarian's tempestuous auburn-haired Anna contrasted vividly with the Nordic blonde looks of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's Elvira. Even

more striking was the Welitsch Salome, another role shared with Cebotari, under the direction of one of the greatest of all Strauss conductors, Clemens Krauss.

Covent Garden realised at once that Welitsch was exactly the type of singer it needed to help to rebuild its own company. She was engaged at once and heard regularly over the next six years, although not always to best effect. The first role selected was Aida in the first postwar production of Verdi's opera. It was no great success, as Covent Garden was stupidly pursuing a policy of opera in English and Welitsch was unhappy in having to sing in that language for the first time in her life. Her Musetta, though, became famous over a number of

seasons, a flamboyant, highly sexed interpretation in which she more often than not sang whoever was playing Mimi off the stage.

Ljuba Welitsch was at the centre of one of the most notorious of all the postwar Covent Garden productions, the *Salome* of 1949, directed by Peter Brook, in settings by Salvador Dali. Welitsch did not care for the latter's contribution. "Dali does not know the opera," she said, "it should be all light, not in darkness like the North Pole." The *Times* critic did not much care for it either, but admired Welitsch's "full frontal assault on the emotions" and awarded her a vocal triumph.

The Garden also heard her as Lisa in *The Queen of Spades* and in a single performance of one of her most famous parts, Tosca. But when she returned for a second run of *Salome* in 1953 her voice captured only a shadow of its former glory.

Fortunately, the closing scene of *Salome* has been preserved on record. The Welitsch interpretation under the conductor of her Met debut, Fritz Reiner, is a recognised classic, although some would claim that an earlier account, reckoned to be her first recording, under Lovro von Matacic in 1944, showed the voice in even purer shape. Other records show her excelling in operetta, notably those of Lehár and Johann Strauss, as might be expected from a soprano of Balkan extraction. But sadly there is no record of her part as Mimi in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, one of her last major roles at the Vienna State Opera.

The critic Philip Hope-Wallace used to recount a vivid story of Welitsch sitting at home in Vienna listening to her own records and gleefully crying *Gezeichnet* (bullseye) as she hit the top notes spot on. But by that time Ljuba Welitsch had embarked on a second career in Austrian films and television.

She acted in a number of Austrian productions, perhaps the best-known of which was a film entitled *Helden* (Heroes). But her film career was nothing in comparison with her former career. "She always wanted to be remembered as Salome," said the Vienna State Opera spokesman.

Ljuba Welitsch died after a long illness. She was married twice, but both marriages ended in divorce. There were no children.

VICTOR AMBARTSUMIAN



Victor Ambartsumian, astrophysicist, died at his home in the Byurekhan Observatory, Yerevan, on August 12 aged 87. He was born in Tbilisi on September 18, 1908.

IN THE earlier years of this century, studies by cosmologists and astrophysicists suggested that the creation and evolution of the Universe entailed processes of accretion and condensation. The observation of extraordinarily dense white dwarf stars had indicated that, in the first stage of gravitational collapse, electrons were crushed against the nuclei they orbited.

Victor Ambartsumian challenged these theories, opening up whole new areas of cosmological discussion. His researches led him to believe that creation involved not the compaction and accretion, but rather the dispersion and rarefaction, of matter. Galaxies, he demonstrated, are surrounded by clusters or "associations" of distinct star types which are unstable and, he surmised, so young that they must still be forming in areas of expansion and rarefaction.

He continued to question conventional theories when he disregarded the idea that certain stars were formed as a product of galactic collision, pointing instead that they were produced through colossal explosions in the nuclei of normal galaxies. By the 1960s he was arguing that galactic clusters originated in the explosive expansion of a single protogalaxy, an idea which can be used to support the possibility of a "big bang" Universe.

Though some were to label his hypotheses as eccentric, he played an important role in cosmological thought in the postwar world and was a member of more than 50 national academies and scientific organisations.

Victor Ambartsumian was born in Georgia, the son of an eminent Armenian philologist. He inherited his father's rigorously academic mind, but applied his own talents to a very different sphere of knowledge and won a place at Leningrad State University to study Mathematics and Physics. Graduating in 1928, he went on to Pulkovo Observatory to study for a doctorate, which he was awarded in 1931.

Appointed immediately to a lectureship at Leningrad, he was made a professor just three years later. But the political climate in Russia at that time was rigidly ideological. Stalinist repression and xenophobic suspicion made it difficult for Russian scientists to involve themselves in international debate and research. Ambartsumian and his team found themselves in conflict with the director of the Pulkovo Observatory, which was, after much dispute, destroyed. By the time it was rebuilt in the 1940s the skies were polluted by light from the capital.

By the 1940s, however, the

Russian Government had decided to invest in science as a tool to shore up Communist ideologies. A new era of Soviet research began. Ambartsumian was appointed to the chair of astrophysics at Yerevan University in Armenia, from where he organised the construction of the Byurekhan Observatory, more than 13,000 ft high on Aragats Mountain. This was to become an important international centre of research and was to remain his base for the rest of his life.

He was twice awarded Soviet Russia's highest honour, the Hero of Socialist Labour medal. After the collapse of the Soviet Union he was awarded the National Hero of Armenia medal. He served as vice-president and president of the International Astronomical Union. He was also made a foreign fellow of the Academies of France, Germany, India and America.

A man of strong convictions and beliefs, in 1989 Ambartsumian went on hunger strike for three weeks in an attempt to draw public and government attention to the conflict in the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

But in his hours of relaxation he enjoyed reading poetry, and, like many brilliant mathematicians, he had a profound understanding of, and love for, music.

He is survived by his wife Vera, and by two sons and two daughters.

PROFESSOR BILL MACKENZIE

Bill Mackenzie, CBE, Professor of Politics at Glasgow University, 1966-74, died on August 22 aged 81. He was born on April 8, 1909.

BILL MACKENZIE was perhaps the single most influential figure to shape the academic study of politics in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s. Although not a media pundit like his near-namesake Bob McKenzie at the LSE, and often incomprehensible to undergraduates in the lecture hall, he nevertheless exerted immense influence over a whole generation of political scientists.

He probably picked, backed and encouraged more of the key figures in the field than any other political science grandee of his time. He helped to fashion the substance of the discipline by launching and developing many of its sub-fields; and to a large extent he influenced its style, more as systematic study than "hard science" in the American behaviourist form.

William James Millar Mackenzie's reputation largely rested on his time as Professor of Government at Manchester University from 1949 to 1966. The "Mackenzie era" at Manchester became a legend in British political science. He created a climate of adventurous thinking, critical discussion and interlinking of different "worlds" which put Manchester at the centre of the map of the emerging discipline in Britain.

He articulated a set of classic studies of politics and public administration in the 1950s and 1960s through encouragement of intellectual boldness, insistence on perspective and generosity with detailed comments (manuscripts sent to him unfailingly elicited a mass of scribbled notes in response, often bafflingly elliptical, but always

shrewd and erudite). He was appointed CBE in 1963 and five years later was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

Mackenzie wrote landmark papers in the 1950s on pressure groups, electoral representation, the theory of local government and public administration. His book *Central Administration in Britain* (1957), co-authored with Jack Grove, was the first systematic study of how Whitehall works, a book full of insights and far more elegantly written than most of its successors. He also wrote two books on elections, *Free Elections* (1958) and *Five Elections in Africa* (with Kenneth Robinson, 1960), the former being a path-breaking analysis of electoral systems. His work, *Politics and Social Science* (1967), drew on his interdisciplinary seminars at Manchester to put the study of politics into a broader social science perspective, in the form of a review essay of astonishing breadth.

Mackenzie in part repeated the formula when he moved to Glasgow University in 1966, making the Politics Department an invigorating place for research students and junior staff at that time. His "Monday seminars" and reading parties were serious attempts to move on debate and think out different perspectives (such as micropolitics or rhetoric systems).

He contributed to research projects on foreign policy-making and quangos and, after his retirement in 1974, he produced several more books, including *Power, Violence, Decision* (1975), his collected papers *Explorations in Government* (1975), *Political Identity* (1977), *Biological Ideas and Politics* (1978) and *Power and Responsibility in Health Care* (1979). None of these, however, quite achieved the classic status of his earlier work.



What Mackenzie contributed to the study of politics was more a "style" (a favourite word of his) than a method or an overall theory. He was sceptical of overarching theory, preferring to see the tools of political science as a set of golf clubs, to be used according to the judgment and skill of each player. His work was too broad-ranging to fit within any of the conventional specialisms of the subject.

Mackenzie achieved his dominance in postwar political science through a remarkable personality combining an open manner, an air of authority mixed with an ironic sense of humour and great personal charm. He was a big man in every sense, who acquired early in life the appearance of a benevolent patriarch and took a kindly personal interest in students and colleagues. Mixed with that was his ability to bring different worlds together,

which gave him a sense of cultural perspective.

He switched to the study of political science in 1936, having previously been a Classics don at Magdalen College, Oxford, (after taking a double first at Balliol in 1931). His earlier training in philology and rhetoric gave him a distinct perspective on politics and public administration, epitomised in a famous "translation" of the 1961 Plowden report from "mandarin" into plain English for *The Manchester Guardian*.

Mackenzie was a Scot, a grandson of the manse on both sides, versed in Scots law and institutions (he was schooled at Edinburgh Academy, his father was an Edinburgh "writer", and he took a law degree in Edinburgh after his classics degree at Oxford), who could view England and its institutions from the sharper and more detached perspective of an expatriate.

He spanned the very different cultures of Oxford, the English redbricks and the Scottish universities, and he also combined the world of the Establishment insider, privy to the inner workings of Whitehall with that of a critical outside observer.

A "forced war" as a temporary civil servant in the Air Ministry gave him a close view of fighting among mandarins and "boffins". He was entrusted after 1945 with the highly sensitive task of writing the official (and still unpublished) history of the Special Operations Executive. He was an adviser on the independence constitutions for Kenya and Tanzania (a role he once summarised as persuading the white settlers to take the money rather than fight). He also served on many of the regional and national quangos that he later wrote about, as well as on official committees and the royal commission which recommended the creation of the GLC.

However, he always retained a sense of ironic detachment from his position as trusted insider. He never identified with the London Establishment and in his later years became sympathetic to self-government for Scotland.

An older generation of British political scientists still retains an affectionate recollection of Mackenzie's minor foibles and inimitable style. When, after many years' absence, he attended the Political Studies Association annual dinner as guest of honour earlier this year, the world of British political science had become very different, in people, substance and style, from what he had shaped three or four decades before. But a later generation was grateful to be able to salute a pioneer.

Bill Mackenzie is survived by his wife Pam, his son and four daughters.

BRIGADIER ROBERT HODGES

Brigadier Robert Hodges, CBE, former commander of the Woolwich garrison, Royal Artillery, died on August 3 aged 86. He was born on June 11, 1910.

WHEN the Second World War broke out, Bob Hodges found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Posted to India as a young gunner officer four years earlier, he had made a favourable impression and senior officers were reluctant to lose him. In 1941 he was still there, a student at the staff college in Quetta — frustrated at being so far from the action.

Hodges made it to the Middle East the next year. But as General Montgomery's Eighth Army was preparing for El Alamein, he found himself stuck in Cairo and Beirut. His ability as a staff officer was unquestioned. Two years later, still in Cairo, he was the principal aide of Major-General Peter Maxwell, commanding the artillery in the Middle East. But Hodges was by now bitterly disappointed.

It was not until later that year that he reached the frontline of the European war, first as second-in-command and then as commander of 147 (Essex Yeomanry) Field Regi-

ment as the Allies fought their way towards Berlin. He was mentioned in dispatches and won two Belgian decorations, including the Croix de Guerre. But contemporaries felt that his career never quite recovered from its slow start in the war. He had been almost too efficient for his own good.

Harold Robert Law Hodges was born in Dartmouth and educated at Sedburgh and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich — "The Shop" where the Army trained its gunners and engineers. He won the Services Cadet Championship for bayonet fencing before being commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1930. He served in this country and in Malta, then was posted to the sub-continent in 1935.

Hodges held several key jobs after the war which took him to Germany and the United States. In 1952 he joined the 5th Royal Horse Artillery, leading it to Osanbrück to reinforce BAOR when the Soviet blockade of Berlin raised fears of a third world war. On his return, he became chief gunnery instructor at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill — reflecting his professional standing within The Royal Regiment.

The Duncan Sandys 1957 Defence White Paper heralded

the end of National Service and with it a further contraction of top jobs. By now a brigadier, Hodges commanded the Royal Artillery in the 51st Highland Division based in Scotland, then moved to a similar post in Northern Command at York. Finally, in 1963, he took over the Woolwich garrison, spiritual home of the Royal Artillery, at a time of reorganisation which included the rebuilding of the historic barracks. He was also an honorary ADC to the Queen.

Retiring in 1965, he became a security officer for the military, travelling the world visiting appointees to senior posts. He visited Northern Ireland several times, checking recruits to the new part-time Ulster Defence Regiment.

As a young man Hodges was an accomplished horseman, who rode to hounds and played polo. He was also a founder member of the Royal Artillery Yacht Club. But he injured his back in a fall while pig-sticking and was in pain for much of his life thereafter. This could make him impatient with those whose standards fell short of his own.

Hodges had a leg amputated six years ago and spent the last four years in a nursing home, where he died. He is survived by his wife Ann, and by a son and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Bellinger, NSM, Guernsey St Stephen: to be NSM, Guernsey St Martin (Winchester). Canon Michael Braitwaite, Vicar, Lorton and Loweswater w Buttermere, Rural Dean of Derwent, and Team Leader of the Council for Agriculture and Rural Life: to resign as team leader but retaining a member of the council and vicar and rural dean (Carlisle). The Rev Stephen Burdett, Vicar, North Dulwich St Faith: to be also Post Ordination Training Leader for the Woolwich Episcopal Area (Southwark). The Rev Alan Butler, Assistant Curate, Maryport, and Flimby: to be Priest-in-charge, Flimby (Carlisle). The Rev Antonia Creney, NSM, Sedminster: to be Assistant Curate, Sedminster (Bristol). Canon Helen Cunliffe, Canon Residentiary, Southwark Cathedral: to be Canon, Walsingham.

Priest-in-charge, Taunton All Saints (Bath & Wells). The Rev Hamish Fullerton, Assistant Curate, Strathgusky Christ Church: to be Assistant Curate, Woodcote St Mark (Southwark). Canon Peter Gompertz, Vicar, Northampton St Giles: to be Priest-in-charge, Aynho and Croughton w Evenley (Peterborough). The Rev Doreen Harrison: to be Assistant Curate, Colton w Satterthwaite and Rusland (Carlisle). The Rev Jane Hayward, Assistant Curate, Bristol Redcliffe w Temple and Bedminster St John the Baptist: to be Priest-in-charge, Eastville St Anne w St Mark and St Thomas (Bristol). The Rev David Ireson, Assistant Curate, Minehead: to be Vicar, Watchet (Bath & Wells). The Ven David Jenkins, Archdeacon of Wiltshire and

Satterthwaite and Rusland (Carlisle). The Rev Peter Knight, Assistant Curate, The Lydiards (Bristol): to be Team Vicar, same benefice. The Rev Hartmut Kopsch, Vicar, Dover St Martin (Canterbury): to be Rector, Bath Walcot (Bath & Wells). The Rev David Lockyer, Vicar, Halifax, and Chaplain, Halifax Royal Infirmary (Wakefield): to be Vicar, Banwell (Bath & Wells). The Rev Margaret Maslen, Assistant Curate, Ilminster and District: to be Assistant Curate, Tanworth (Bath & Wells). The Rev Richard Maslen, Assistant Curate (NSM), Ilminster and District: to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), Tanworth (Bath & Wells). Canon Stephen Oliver, Team Rector, Leeds City, and Honorary Canon, Ripon Cathedral: to be Canon Residentiary, St Paul's

Chishill, Chishill, Elmton w Wendon Lofes and Srethall: to be Rector, Rayleigh Holy Trinity w St Michael (Chesham). The Rev David Perryman, Vicar, Bath St Luke: to be also Rural Dean of Bath. The Rev Patricia Rogers, Chaplain to the Deaf (Norwich): to be Assistant Chaplain to the Deaf (Peterborough). Resignations and retirements The Rev William Canham, Rector, Guernsey St Marguerite de la Forêt (Winchester): to retire September 30. The Rev Martin Culverwell, Rector, Rode Major (Bath & Wells): to resign. The Ven Richard Frith, Archdeacon of Taunton, and Priest-in-charge, Taunton All Saints: to resign as Priest-in-charge, Taunton All Saints, remaining Archdeacon (Bath & Wells). Canon Bill Kelly, Priest-in-charge, Marston and Broom's Barn (Bath & Wells).

TURKISH ATROCITIES.

To the Editor of *The Times* Sir, "Ecce iterum!" will be some readers' easy sneer, but in spite of that I desire, as a Bishop of the Church of England, to appeal in *The Times* to the newly awakened conscience of the English people in relation to the Bulgarian atrocities. That the conscience of the nation is awakened there can be no doubt. The spirit of slumber or indifference has passed away. The people are thoroughly aroused. Meetings to express the popular feeling are being held everywhere, and everywhere the expression of feeling, with scarcely a dissentient voice, is the same. "In the district of Manchester," writes the editor of a Northern paper, "the public conscience is aroused as I have never seen it before. We are holding indignation meetings every day, and so intense is the public feeling on the subject that a declaration of immediate war on the Turks would be

ON THIS DAY

September 2, 1876

A letter from the Bishop of Manchester, supported by a leading article complaining of the Government's delay in taking action, reflected widespread condemnation in the country at large, fanned by the power of Gladstone's oratory.

Indignation is not misplaced seems to be tardily admitted by the Government itself. In a letter from Mr Bourke, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, read at a meeting at Nottingham on the following remarkable sentences: "I am not at all surprised that your constituents should be shocked and indignant at the accounts which have recently reached England of the dreadful deeds that have been committed in

was fomented by foreigners, or how sanguinary were the intentions and acts of the insurgent Christians; the carnage and devastation by which it was suppressed cannot be justified, and reflect shame upon the Government under which these events took place, and infamy upon the actors in the dreadful crimes... You may be quite sure that the Prime Minister and I feel as indignant as any two men in the country, and mean to act in accordance with those feelings." But Lord Derby has told us that in these difficult and delicate crises he likes to feel before he acts...

Last night a meeting of the members and other residents of the Tower Hamlets was held at the Irish Workmen's Club on the subject of the Turkish outrages. It was moved by Mr Beckett that "the apathy of Her Majesty's Ministers, in view of the fearful atrocities committed by the soldiery of one of our allies on the

